

HEIDI MIAMI MARSHALL

AMBER

JOHNNY SÁNCHEZ



AMBER

Inspired by a true story

SYNOPSIS

AMBER is a 17-year-old white girl who looks like the typical “all-American” girl-next-door, yet her life is anything but squeaky clean. Her dad left, and she now lives alone with her single mom, BETH, who struggles to make ends meet.

After discovering an eviction notice, Amber looks for a job to help her mom pay the bills, but is unable to secure employment. Her childhood friend, JUAN, a member of the SEVENS street gang, presents Amber with a money-making opportunity – dealing drugs. But RAY, a tough gangster, makes it clear he doesn’t want a “white hoe” in their crew. Not one to back away from a challenge, Amber does an armed robbery and faces Ray in an initiation that involves getting jumped-in. Amber proves herself, is welcomed into the gang and starts selling drugs.

As she dives deeper into street-life, Amber gets to know OMAR, another member of the SEVENS. Omar is gentle, smart, caring – and she falls for him. Things are finally looking up for Amber, she’s making money and she’s in love.

But when a rival street gang, THIRD AVE GANG, show up and threaten to take over their drug business, the SEVENS fight back. A deadly shootout ensues, and everyone is arrested. Everyone, except Amber.

As she gets a second chance, but Omar and the SEVENS do not, Amber is left with finally recognizing her white privilege.

THE STORY

Amber is inspired by real events and based on a real person, and the experiences she went through when she joined a gang. Like the real person, Amber comes from a lower-class broken home, lacks proper role models, is reckless and wants a better life. She will unapologetically stop at nothing to get there. She's a teenager full of angst and passion. Amber is ultimately a fighter & should be portrayed as such.



HEIDI MIAMI MARSHALL



AMBER



JOHNNY SÁNCHEZ



SETTING

Our story takes place in a small Colorado town with big problems. *In other words*, this is not a big city. Walking through the streets where this true story occurred, a thick air filled with danger and abandonment was present everywhere.

Our film depicts smaller communities ultimately abandoned by the larger society, and the individuals living here are very keenly aware of that. This is small town, U.S.A. - where we least expect these stories to happen. A true story about a teenage white girl joining a black gang in the heartland of America is a topic that has yet to be explored in narrative film.

HEIDI MIAMI MARSHALL



AMBER



JOHNNY SÁNCHEZ



ARTISTIC STATEMENT

HEIDI MIAMI MARSHALL

AMBER

JOHNNY SÁNCHEZ

Why make a film about a white girl in a predominantly black world?

Obvious answer, we shouldn't be centering white women; not in this setting and not right now. But due to Donald Trump's Presidency a growing number of young white people are falling into white supremacy as a means of self-preservation and continued superiority, and a film like AMBER can open up a dialogue on whiteness and white privilege; in a way that will call white people forth to accountability.

To be clear, this isn't a white saviour story, and our white girl isn't naïve or passive, or looking for exotic experiences with people of color. AMBER explores how working-class Americans (of all backgrounds) grapple with race, class, gender. These are everyday issues our characters face. We aim to provide a gritty, gut-wrenching, authentic look into issues many folks wish would go away - yet are here and now.

A white girl joining a black gang conjures up polarizing ideas. But when people read the script and see kids from diverse backgrounds questioning their lives — their world — trying to figure things out, audiences see themselves in these kids and they pick sides. But by the end, you don't get to stay on the side you thought you were on. That is the power of Amber and why this story needs to be told.

THE SCRIPT

"This is a refreshing, grounded and incredibly authentic coming of age story like no other.... there is definitely room for this entry into the current space. Not only is it female-driven with a compelling protagonist set in a fascinating world, but it deals with issues that are incredibly important and relevant in the current social and political climate. This is a diverse, authentic and refreshing drama that needs and deserves to be told. "

- The BlackList

"The script has the potential to become an award-winning film."

- Write Movies

"The writing certainly packs a punch. With a solid structure and engaging characters, this script is a political and social firecracker that is worth attention."

- BlueCat Screenplay

"This script should find real traction in the marketplace. It's strong, smart with universal appeal."

- International Screenwriters Association (ISA)

FUN FACT: The script passes the Bechdel Test.

HEIDI MIAMI MARSHALL

AMBER

JOHNNY SÁNCHEZ

DIRECTOR: Heidi Miami Marshall's is an in-demand acting coach in NYC & LA. She's worked with A-List talent and some of the most notable up and coming talent. She has a great relationship with actors and is always able to pull the best performances. As a director, she's received awards and fellowships for her directing in theater and film. Her short film MUSCLE, Executive Produced by Frank Oz, played at over 30 festivals worldwide and won 7 awards. Baz Luhrmann has said: *"All of Heidi Marshall's work has led me to see that she's a director of first rate talent and ability."* As a former Casting Director, Heidi worked on over 100 commercials, Broadway, and TV and Film auditions. A member of The FilmmakeHers, Heidi is passionate about supporting females making films.

WRITER: Johnny Sánchez has over 30 years of experience in the film industry as an actor+writer+producer. He co-produced FIND ME GUILTY directed by Sidney Lumet, starring Vin Diesel, Peter Dinklage; and EVEN MONEY starring Academy Award Winners Kim Basinger, Forest Whitaker. Johnny produced MUSCLE, directed by Heidi. His screenplay AMBER has consistently ranked in the top 5% of scripts. Most notably at the 2019 Austin Film Festival Screenwriting Competition and on The Black List.

CONSULTANT/CO-PRODUCER: JLove authored the novel THAT WHITE GIRL, based on her experiences as a teenage white girl from Colorado who joined the African-American street gang, The Crips. Her life is the inspiration for the film AMBER. As an activist, author, coach, trainer, and a creator/producer, storytelling and justice is at the heart of her work. JLove directed and produced the short docs ASIA-ONE: EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED and FROM GANGS TO GARDENS, and the TV pilot THE MESSAGE featuring Joey Bada\$\$\$. JLove is a member of SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice), & Co-Founder/Co-CEO of INSPIRED JUSTICE.



THE TEAM

Mandy Ward works in various capacities on the physical production of features, scripted TV, reality TV & docs. After a long and successful run on the show *A CRIME TO REMEMBER* (Emmy Award), she just most recently produced *THE MAN IN THE WOODS* directed by Noah Buschel and *SELL BY* directed by Mike Doyle, starring Patricia Clarkson and Kate Walsh.

Carlos Ibarra is an award winning creative producer, writer, director, and actor. He has over 10 years of experience in the film industry working across development, financing, production, and management. Previously, he worked as Head of Development at 141 Entertainment. Company projects include: *Ingrid Goes West*, *Marjorie Prime*, and *Sesame Street*, *Palestine*.

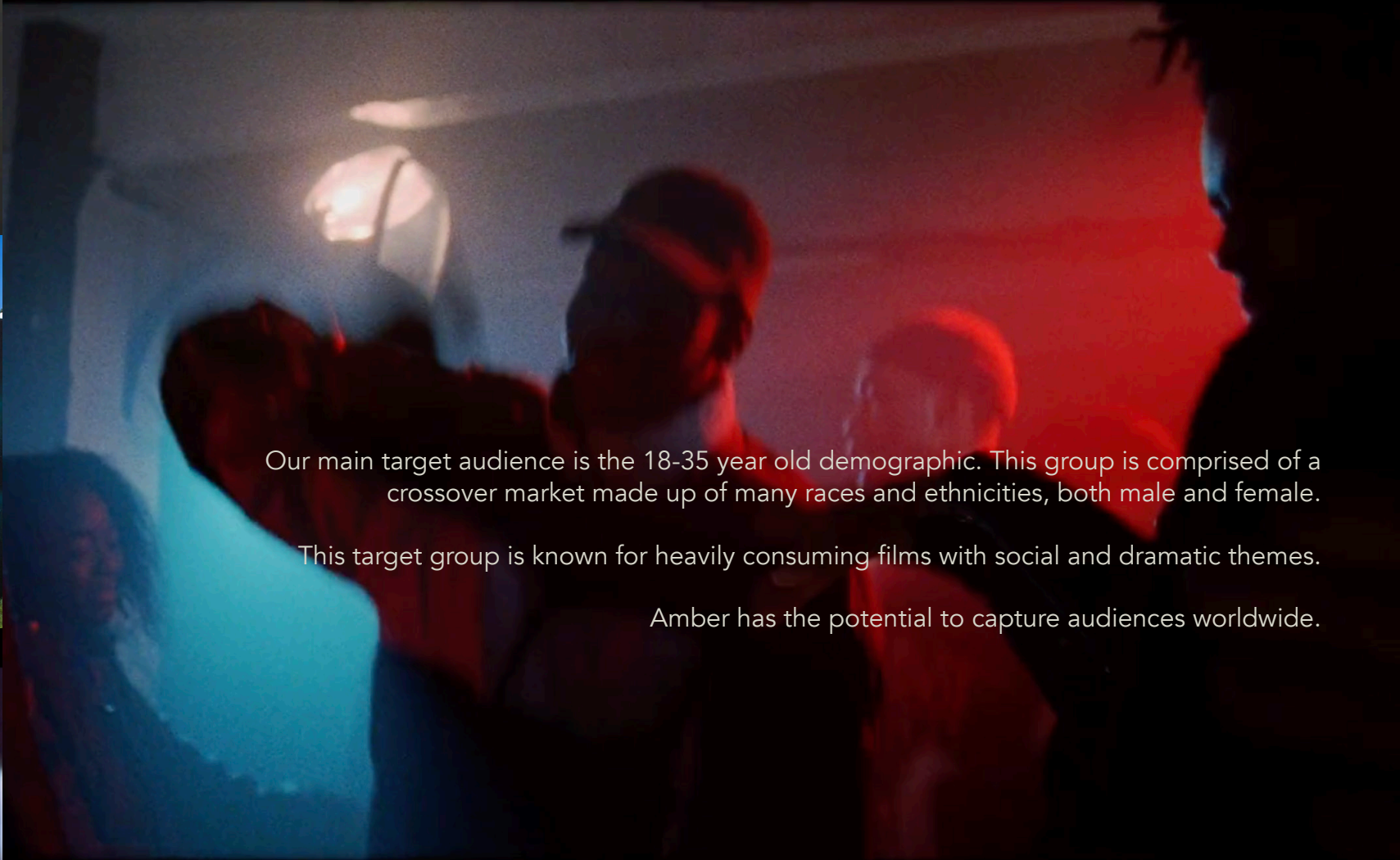
HEIDI MIAMI MARSHALL



JOHNNY SÁNCHEZ



THE MARKET



Our main target audience is the 18-35 year old demographic. This group is comprised of a crossover market made up of many races and ethnicities, both male and female.

This target group is known for heavily consuming films with social and dramatic themes.

Amber has the potential to capture audiences worldwide.

SIMILAR STYLES/GENRE

WINTER'S BONE

Year of Release 2010

Rating: RATED R

Themes: Coming-of-Age,
Poverty, Drugs**FRUITVALE STATION**

Year of Release: 2013

Rating: RATED R

Themes: Coming-Of-Age,
Poverty, Race**MOONLIGHT**

Year of Release 2016

Rating: RATED R

Themes: Coming-of-Age,
Poverty, Identity, LGBT**THIRTEEN**

Year of Release: 2003

Rating: RATED R

Themes: Coming-Of-Age,
Drugs, Rebellion

THE PLAN

Budget: \$1.5MM-2.5MM USD

**Potential Locations: Upstate
New York, Colorado, New
Mexico, Arizona, California,
Georgia, and Kentucky**

Cash Flow Requirements:

- **Pre-Production: 10%**
- **Principal Photography
(Filming): 75%**
- **Post Production (editing/
completion): 15%**

PRODUCTION TIMELINE

Currently | Active Development

Secure financing. Attach talent.

2 months | Pre-Production

Cast remaining roles, establish production office, secure locations, hire crew, equipment rental/purchases, contact preparation and all legal paperwork and, hire an account & payroll company to handle expenses.

5-6 weeks | Principal Photography

Principal 25-30 days.

8 months | Post-Production

Editing, color grading, graphics, effects, music score, sound mixing. Begin publicity/marketing/advertising.

10 months | Private Screenings/Film Festivals - Out To Market

Filmmakers will attempt to play the film at major film festivals and, as necessary, attend film markets. Additionally, private (invite-only) screenings may be held for distributors.

***Note:** According to actor/crew availabilities and other filmmaking factors, production timeline may be subject to change.

HEIDI MIAMI MARSHALL

AMBER

JOHNNY SÁNCHEZ

AMBER BUDGET

Director: Heidi Miami Marshall
Writer/Producer: Johnny Sánchez

25 day shoot / Location: Upstate NY
Producers: Amy Baker, Carlos Ibarra, Mandy Ward

Acct#	Category Description	Page	Total
1000	Story and Rights	1	\$10,000
1100	Producers	1	\$81,000
1200	Directors	2	\$15,000
1300	Cast	2	\$143,950
1400	Above-The-Line Travel/Accomodations	5	\$2,000
Total Fringes			\$74,576
Total Above-The-Line			\$326,526
1500	Extra Talent	6	\$71,500
1600	Production Staff	7	\$163,800
1700	Production Film & Lab	8	\$0
1800	Camera	8	\$92,275
1900	Wardrobe	9	\$38,950
2000	Makeup and Hairdressing	10	\$16,150
2100	Set Dressing	11	\$6,875
2200	Props	11	\$47,342
2300	Art Department	13	\$58,990
2400	Set Construction	13	\$8,900
2500	Video	14	\$0
2600	Sound Recording	14	\$32,450
2700	Set Lighting	15	\$42,550
2800	Set Operation	16	\$64,550
2900	Facilities	17	\$16,000
3000	Special Effect	17	\$1,200
3100	Locations	17	\$90,650
3200	Transportation	19	\$64,950
3300	Second Unit	20	\$0
Total Fringes			\$109,667
Total Production			\$926,799
3400	Editing	21	\$42,800
3500	Music	21	\$70,000
3600	Post Production Sound	22	\$20,000
3700	Post Production Film & Lab	22	\$0
3800	Titles & Opticals	23	\$5,000
3900	VFX/SFX	23	\$10,000
Total Fringes			\$6,960
Total Post Production			\$154,760
4000	Insurance	24	\$10,000
4100	Publicity	24	\$25,000
4200	Legal and Business	24	\$15,000
4300	General Expense	24	\$7,200
Total Fringes			\$0
Total Other			\$57,200
5100	Contingency	26	\$40,000
Total Above-The-Line			\$326,526
Total Below-The-Line			\$1,138,759
Total Above and Below-The-Line			\$1,465,285
Grand Total			\$1,505,285

THANK YOU

Script available upon request.

Please contact:

Mandy Ward
Mandy@metropoleink.com

Carlos Ibarra
ibarra.carlos2@gmail.com

Johnny Sánchez
JohnnySanchez@mac.com