



HOW I LEARNED TO FLY





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HOW I LEARNED TO FLY

*a film by
Simon Steuri*

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Synopsis

Where your thought goes, your energy flows.

Two African-American teenage boys are suddenly and mysteriously abandoned by their parents. The two have to learn how to survive on their own. From this desertion, comes an experience of beauty, meaning and enduring love.



Speaking with Director Simon Steuri:

How did such a story come to be?

The journey of this film started in my childhood in the sparsely populated back-country of Switzerland. In the 80s, they didn't have the medical terminology to describe a child like me: highly gifted yet social withdrawn, unable to communicate with others...inspired by light and color and yet deathly afraid of people. The isolation and fear of those years has formed me into the man that I am. I wanted to tell that child's story.

How did the cast take form?

During the casting process of this film, I met a young actor named Lonnie Chavis. He has a special gift and I knew I wanted to work with him. Unlike me, Lonnie is black. In casting him, I was suddenly building a family around him that was so different than my own. I found myself no longer just making a film about my own loneliness and isolation. I was making a film now that had wider implications about race and class. My own struggle to be heard has expanded into a meditation on the struggle all those in our society who fall outside of the mainstream, those who are the most vulnerable and often unseen. In the making of that child's story, I have found that we have made a story that is beyond me.

The struggle of that boy in Switzerland and the struggle of these young characters in this film are united by the gifts of what it means to be human and united by the joy of finding beauty and kindness where we least expect it.



Filmmaker Bios:

Simon Steuri

Director/Writer

Born in Switzerland, writer and director Simon Steuri got his first start into the entertainment industry as a radio DJ when he was 18 years old. He studied film at the University of Arts in Zürich and soon started shooting music videos and commercials. His short film VANDALS ran in the competition at the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival in France. His commercials work has won him several awards. Most recently, one of these films was based on a poem he wrote. The commercial has been translated into six languages. HOW I LEARNED TO FLY is his feature film debut.

Jewelr Ross

Producer

Jewelr Ross, most known as the long-time manager of international auteur filmmakers, has produced three films including HOW I LEARNED TO FLY, which he also financed. Prior, he produced BRUISER starring Trevante Rhoades and Shamier Anderson. Released to rave reviews, BRUISER is available on Hulu in the US and Disney Plus around the world. Currently, Jewelr is in post-production on FAMILY starring Ruth Wilson and Ben Chaplin. As a talent manager, Jewelr represents filmmakers including Barry Jenkins (US), Robin Campillo (France), Gabriel Mascaro (Brazil), Bora Kim (South Korea), Yann Gonzales (France) and others.

Irvin Liu

Cinematographer

Irvin is a Director of Photography based in Los Angeles interested in telling stories that explore the human condition and diverse cultures. Recently he was nominated for the Panavision Award for Best Narrative Feature Cinematography for his work on DEALING WITH DAD. The film also won the Audience Award for Best Feature at the 2022 LA Asian Film Festival. Prior, the short, QUERY, premiered at the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival and was nominated for Best Narrative Short.

Cast Bios:

Lonnie Chavis

Eli Davis

Born in Los Angeles, Lonnie landed his first recurring role on NBC's hit dramedy series, THIS IS US starring Mandy Moore, Milo Ventimiglia and Sterling K Brown at the age of 9. Lonnie plays the younger version of Emmy Award winning actor, Sterling K. Brown. Lonnie made his feature debut in Davis Oyelowo's directorial debut, THE WATER MAN. With Chavis as the lead, he starred opposite of Oyelowo and Rosario Dawson. He credits Oyelowo with making him a better actor.



Marcus Scribner

Daniel Davis

Marcus Scribner landed his first series regular role at the age of 13 on ABC's hit comedy BLACK-ISH starring as Andre Jr opposite Anthony Anderson and Tracee Ellis Ross. Since its premiere in September 2014, the series has gone on to receive both critical acclaim and awards recognition year after year, including a prestigious Peabody Award in 2015. Marcus has also been nominated for multiple Emmy, Golden Globe, Critics Choice, NAACP Image and Screen Actors Guild Awards as part of the ensemble cast, and in 2016 he received an individual NAACP Image award for 'Outstanding Performance by a Youth,' a category in which he has been nominated every year for his work on the show. Transitioning into film, Marcus most recently starred in HOW TO BLOW UP A PIPELINE based on the book of the same name.

Clifford 'Method Man' Smith

Cliff Davis

Award-winning actor, producer and musician Cliff "Method Man" Smith, has been forging an extraordinary and unparalleled path across all mediums since he first entered the scene 30 years ago. Smith currently stars as 'Attorney Davis MacLean' opposite Mary J. Blige in the worldwide hit STARZ series "POWER BOOK II: GHOST." Smith also recently starred in Paramount Pictures' ON THE COME UP directed by Saana Lathan.



Cedric the Entertainer

Louis

A comedian and actor known for being one of the Original Kings of Comedy, Cedric Antonio Kyles is also known for his roles in the BARBERSHOP trilogy, the MADAGASCAR trilogy, THE STEVE HARVEY SHOW, ICE AGE, PLANES, THE SOUL MAN and THE NEIGHBORHOOD. He has had three children with Lorna Wells.



About Film Movement

Founded in 2002, Film Movement is a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City. It has released more than 300 feature films culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide. Film Movement's theatrical releases include American independent films, documentaries, and foreign-language arthouse titles. Its catalog includes works by directors such as Ryusuke Hamaguchi, Lee Isaac Chung, Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Andrei Konchalovsky, Andrzej Wajda, Ciro Guerra, Jan Komasa and Melanie Laurent. In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on Blu-ray and DVD, including films by such noted directors as Ang Lee, Chen Kaige, Luchino Visconti, Stanley Kwan, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris, Takeshi Kitano, Arturo Ripstein, King Hu, and Sergio Corbucci. For more information, please visit www.filmmovement.com.

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