



**MUSICAL-COMEDY
FEATURE FILM
PITCH DECK**

THE PREMISE



Songs in the Canyon: The Movie, stars real Costa Mesa musicians playing fictionalized versions of themselves in a larger than life quest to play at the festival. This film will showcase these artists and personalities within the real life settings and venues in which they play.



LOGLINE:

When the famed local music festival makes a surprise return, one reluctant drummer sees his shot to make it big. Will he take his band out of town, or will he lose himself in the chase?

THE STORY



The legendary local music festival **Songs in the Canyon** is returning after a four-year hiatus, promising a chance for one local band to break into stardom. Ryan, a 28-year-old drifter who gave up drumming as a child, sees his chance to pursue drumming once more against his parents' will. Meanwhile, his best friend Jacob's band finds themselves in need of a good drummer in order to have a shot. Ryan joins Scarlet Bloom.

As the band scrambles to prepare for the festival, tensions brew within the group. Ryan's newfound ambition and perfectionism clash with Jacob's easygoing and optimistic leadership. Meanwhile, Ryan's growing romance with Violette, a soulful and self-doubting singer, forces him to confront his own insecurities.

As Scarlet Bloom takes the stage at Songs in the Canyon, Ryan's journey to find purpose culminates in a performance that proves Costa Mesa's music scene still holds room for underdogs and dreamers.

THEMES:

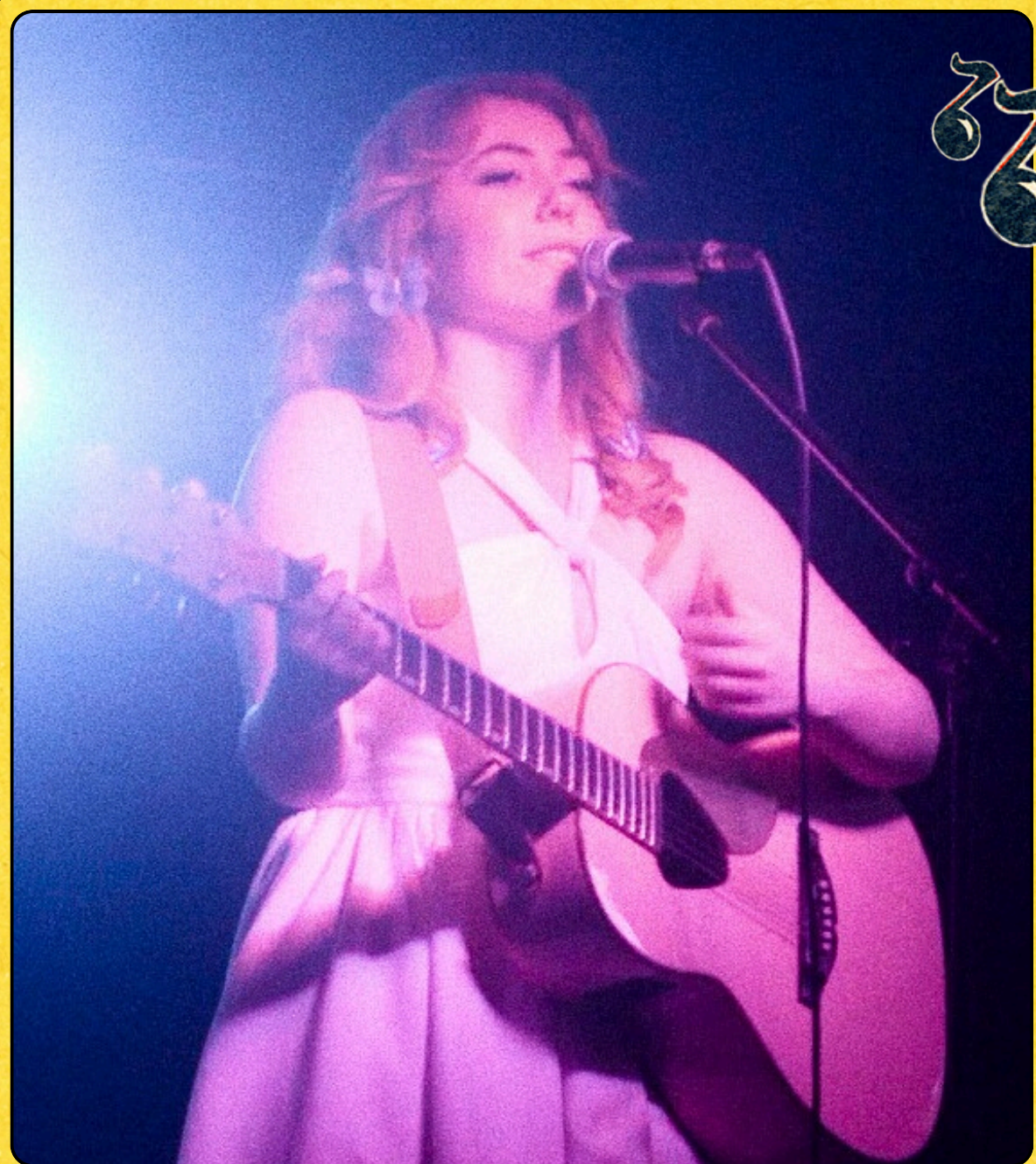
- **Self-Discovery:** Finding your unique path in a world full of expectations.
- **Collaboration:** Growing through the process of working with others.
- **Dreams vs. Reality:** Facing the challenges of pursuing a creative life.
- **Redemption:** Proving yourself to those who doubt you—and to yourself.





RYAN

As a child, Ryan always dreamt of becoming a drummer. Despite his talent, his parents steered him away from drumming in pursuit of more “practical” pursuits. At age 28, Ryan has no practical skills, no prospects, and no belief in drumming as more than a childish dream. It will take a special opportunity for Ryan consider drumming again.



VIOLETTE

Coming from a family of Costa Mesa musicians, Violette discovered her love for performing at an early age. Now, as she tries to spread her wings, she’s uncertain whether people truly enjoy her music. As far as she can tell, the only reason she’s booked around town is because of the help she receives from her clingy manager, Levi.



LEVI

Levi’s ambition often outpaces his ability, offering more bluster than brilliance. As Violette’s manager and keyboard player, he tries to shape her career through flashy gimmicks, missing the emotional core of her art. With a flair for dramatics, Levi is both a hindrance and an unexpected catalyst for growth in the lives of those around him.

HISTORY

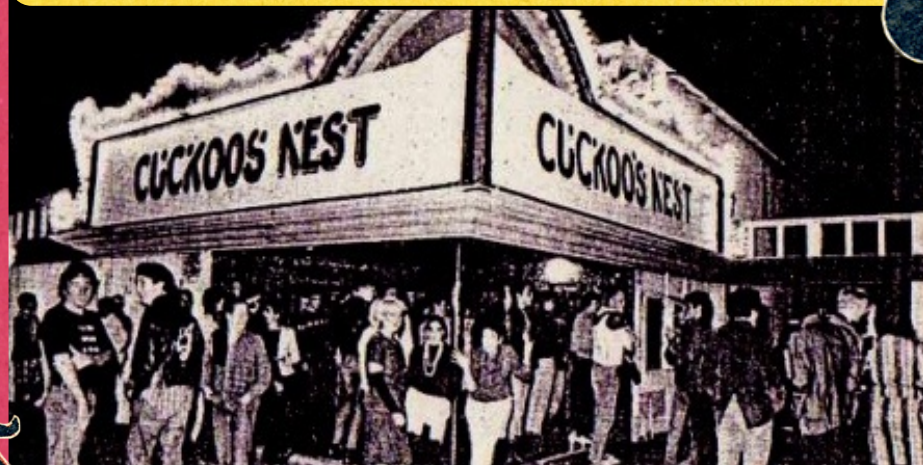
Costa Mesa's music scene has a rich history, from the Newport Pop Festival in 1968, to the rise of punk in the 1980s, to the eclectic scene taking place today.

COSTA MESA MUSIC

Punk rock: Costa Mesa has been featured in punk music since the early 1980s. The Vandals' song "Urban Struggle" is considered one of the most popular songs about Costa Mesa. The song is about the conflict between patrons of two rival clubs, the Cuckoo's Nest and Zubies, that were located on Placentia Avenue.

Newport Pop Festival: Held in 1968 at the OC Fairgrounds, this festival is considered one of the most important cultural events in Costa Mesa's history. It's believed to be the first pop concert to have more than 100,000 paying attendees. The festival featured legendary artists like Eric Burdon, the Grateful Dead, and Jefferson Airplane.

In the early to mid-1980s, hardcore punk bands like Uniform Choice and Ignite emerged, introducing a faster, more aggressive sound.



PARTICIPATING BANDS/MUSICIANS



VIOLETTE RAIN



SCARLET BLOOM



THE REAL BIG BAD



VICTORIA BAILEY



TUNNELS



LEVI PRAIRIE

LOCAL PARTNERS/FILM LOCATIONS



2154 EATS



THE WAYFARER



NUDAE COFFEE



MOONGOAT COFFEE



WAHOOS FISH TACOS



THREE13 BAR



KITSCH BAR



SEMI-TROPIC WINES



SALTY BEAR BREWERY

MEET SHAWN WEHAN

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



Shawn Wehan, Founder and Promoter of the real life Songs in the Canyon, CEO of Givsum Inc., and Chairman of the Givsum Foundation, created Songs in the Canyon to provide a positive local experience where Costa Mesa community members and artists can come together and enjoy a beautiful park setting. Shawn believes that art, in all its forms, brings joy to life, and the more opportunities to engage with it, the better. His pursuit of Songs in the Canyon: The Movie is another opportunity to promote art, support artists, highlight Costa Mesa, and celebrate Songs in the Canyon. Above all, the project aims to raise awareness of the incredible art being created locally and inspire future generations of artists.





MEET PAUL COSBY

DIRECTOR



Paul is a Costa Mesa-based director and cinematographer working in commercial and narrative projects. His comedy short films have screened at prestigious festivals such as the Beverly Hills International Film Festival and Dances With Films. Having spent the past 5 years immersed in the Costa Mesa music scene, Paul has become eager to share a taste of this community with as wide an audience as possible.

“This project will put a spotlight on a community of artists who play music simply because they love to play. As a fan of the music myself, I could not be more excited to promote groups who undoubtedly deserve recognition.”

MEET GRAYSON SHAPIRO

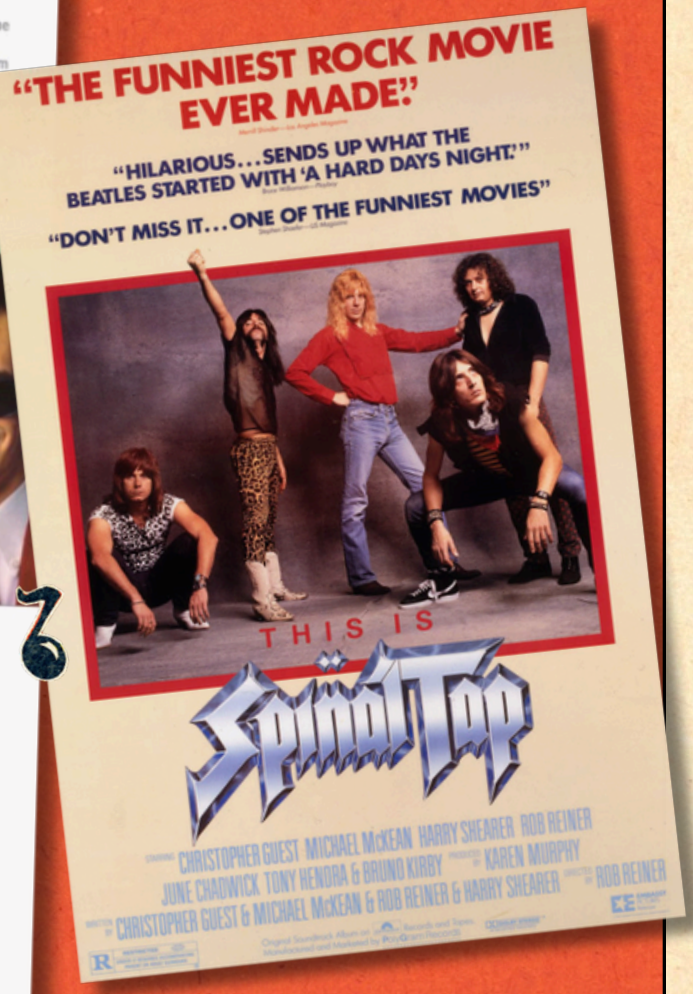
PRODUCTION MANAGER



Grayson Alamango Shapiro is a multi-hyphenate filmmaker born and raised in Los Angeles. In 2024, he served as Casting Director for a feature film, Associate Producer for another, and 1st Assistant Director on two feature films. His short film, *Mí Ofrenda* (2024), which he produced and Casting Directed for the CBS Pipeline Leadership Program, earned 1st Place and secured a \$100,000 award for his partnering non-profit, Our House Grief Support Center. The project also garnered him the Emerging Casting Director Award, presented by one of the industry's leading casting organizations. Grayson has experience working in leadership roles on projects ranging from micro-budgets to \$2 million. Additionally, he worked as a coordinator and teacher at Venice Arts, a nonprofit media arts program, where he mentored young filmmakers aged 14-24 and cultivated their creative growth. He spends his free time directing indie music videos, a passion project that lets him merge his love for storytelling and music.



COMPARABLE FILMS





WHY SUPPORT THIS MOVIE?



- 1. High Return Potential:** Independent films often require lower budgets compared to major studio productions, making the potential for a strong return on investment (ROI) much higher if the film succeeds. A sleeper hit can generate significant profits.
- 2. Creative Freedom:** Independent films are known for their originality, unique storytelling, and innovative approaches. This creative freedom often translates to critically acclaimed films that stand out in festivals and markets.
- 3. Growing Market:** Platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu, and other streaming services have created an increased demand for independent films, offering numerous distribution opportunities.
- 4. Tax Incentives:** Many regions offer tax breaks, rebates, or incentives for film productions. This can significantly reduce the financial risk for investors.
- 5. Prestige and Recognition:** Successful independent films often receive critical acclaim, awards, and recognition at major festivals such as Sundance, Cannes, and Tribeca, boosting your reputation as an investor.
- 6. Diversified Portfolio:** Investing in an independent film adds diversity to your investment portfolio, offering a unique asset class beyond traditional stocks, real estate, or bonds.
- 7. Supporting Emerging Talent:** Investing in indie films gives you the opportunity to support talented, up-and-coming directors, writers, and actors who may become the next big names in the industry.
- 8. Cultural Impact:** Films have the power to inspire, educate, and move audiences. Investing in an independent film allows you to contribute to meaningful stories that might not otherwise be told.
- 9. Global Reach:** Independent films often appeal to international audiences and film festivals, providing opportunities for global distribution and wider exposure.
- 10. Personal Involvement and Experience:** Film investment often allows you to be involved in the filmmaking process: visiting the set, attending premieres, and receiving credits.



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