Budget Proposal

I believe my project *Burner* could be made for about a million to three million dollars. If the story is able to attract some big name actors than I think investors would be more willing to throw in some extra financing. Looking at films similar in style or in the category of “social issue drama” made within the past 5-10 years, the production costs range from about a million to five million dollars. A few examples of these are *American Honey, Imperial Dreams, Moonlight,* and *Fruitvale Station.* I never had intentions with this project to be costly and expensive seeing that it is the first script I have worked on. However, if there is potential for *Burner* to be made efficiently and most profitably without losing the integrity of the story than I see nothing wrong with following a more costly or economic route.

Being that my contacts within the film industry are pretty slim, I understand that raising capital for my film will be extremely difficult. Nevertheless, by networking with those whose labors are involved with the atmosphere of filmmaking, I believe I can break down this large barrier. I have a connection through a close friend in L.A. who is a network-marketing professional. I plan on meeting with him to strategize how I can brand myself and my future endeavors when I pitch my film project to the school. I am also in the process of creating business cards and reaching out to family/friends within the entertainment industry. Having worked as a runner for a law firm here in Las Vegas, I know some entertainment lawyers who manage world famous bands from this city. They can provide me great insight about carefully building a path to a successful career in film.

I am currently working on uploading videos to my YouTube channel. These videos reflect some but not all of the work I have been doing with my project summary. I haven’t really delved into creating my own website, blog, or facebook page, but as my writing career commences, I hope to bring them to life. I would like to attend some festivals soon to see what new projects are being released and to also meet new individuals within the industry. Not having the funds myself to back my project, I believe finding an investor would be the best route to have it made. I don’t have an actual written script at the moment but rather a synopsis. I would only pursue this idea further if an investor would demand a written script with hopes of payment in return. I do have other concepts I’m earnestly more excited about at this present time.

The only debt I have is the loan with the school. I have a high credit score and a great relationship with my bank. They constantly offer me to buy a home through them, but that is not a priority of mine right now. If I needed to jumpstart preproduction for my film, I know I could work with them or any other bank to secure a loan. I have been working since high school and saving as much money as possible while taking care of all my monetary needs without any assistance. I love finance books and have “The Creature from Jekyll Island” on my “to read list.” Although pursuing screenwriting, I have an unusual interest in many subjects and a work/service history not typical of individuals in the arts.

Booker T. Washington is one of my heroes. When he started the Tuskegee institute after being freed from slavery, he went around from city to city asking investors for money to build a school for blacks in Alabama. He and his wife journeyed many miles and asked countless individuals to help in their cause. I have that concept in mind for future investors not only with this school project but a big idea of my own. I believe the difficult parts about convincing someone to invest not only in me but my ideas are 1. Is my story even good? 2. Is it a movie? 3. Will it even make money? Number three is what most investors care about, but I can’t say this is a high concept film idea that will bring in millions of dollars. However, I do believe it is a stepping stone towards me getting there. I originally envisioned this story to be something I could sell to an online steaming service. Not that I wouldn’t want to see it in theatres across the world, but in my humility and respect for social issue dramas not being everyone’s first choice in paying fifteen dollars for a movie ticket.

I don’t think the film would be costly to make as it is set in Philadelphia in a rough neighborhood. There aren’t a lot of expensive scenes or CGI necessary. I could hire up and coming actors for cheap. I already have some marketing ideas for the movie. One example would be to work with an art college or university to give away a free scholarship to a winner of a graffiti art competition. I could promote the movie to contestants and the media. In return the school and the movie would both benefit from positive exposure. I really like the work coming from the film company A24 recently. I could potentially sell them the idea or script if they would be willing to work with me as another option besides finding select investors. I don’t think crowd funding would be super successful unless I had a short film made, although, it can’t hurt to try. I am open-minded about learning better ways to have the story come to life. Maybe I’ll meet someone or maybe something completely unexpected happens and everything changes the process. That’s usually how life goes.