

Sigma Square Media

in Association with JD Harvill

PRESENTS

PSEUDO

A BRENAISSANCE FILM

111 MIN / U.S.A. / COLOR / 2021 / ENGLISH

DISTRIBUTION CONTACT:

OMARR A SALGADO
Head of Acquisitions
Dame Dash Studios
T: (917) 400-1710

info@damedashdistribution.com
www.damedashdistribution.com

PRESS CONTACT:

BRIANA COLE
Executive Producer
Brenaissance, LLC
T: (678) 770-0606

brianacole520@gmail.com
www.brianacole.com

www.pseudothemovie.com

STARRING

Jimez Alexander

Jason Harmon

Briana Cole

Candice Jones

Brandy Bailey

Tawania Grangent

DIRECTED BY

Herschel Grangent Jr.

PRODUCED BY

Tawania Grangent

WRITTEN BY

Briana Cole

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY & EDITOR

JD Harvill

MUSIC

Benjamin "BenReal" Williams

TAGLINE

Who do you trust when you can't trust yourself?

LOGLINE

Tormented with psychological delusions, a man begins to question his reality when he suspects he is being manipulated by his online girlfriend.

SYNOPSIS

Shy attorney Malcolm Terrell has been struggling to get over the recent death of his mother. The loss has left him with schizoaffective disorder, suffering from hallucinations, delusions, and depression for which he was clinically diagnosed after being committed to a mental institution. Now, he takes his medicine, attends his therapy sessions, and, taking the candid advice of his father, is ready to get back into the dating game to find love. His prayers are answered in the form of Maya, the bold and sexy woman he meets online. Their chemistry is electrifying, even more so when they finally meet in-person.

Soon, tragedy strikes the whirlwind romance and catapults Malcolm back into his mental turmoil. But all is not what it seems, and his torment only heightens as he struggles to differentiate delusions from reality. Malcolm must now try desperately to put the pieces together and unveil the truth before he spirals out of control once more. But who do you trust when you can't trust yourself?



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



“The emotional stoicism of Black men is something very few creatives ever talk about. Author Bell Hooks wrote a book on the subject entitled “We Real Cool: Black Men and Masculinity”. It discusses the lack of love, affection and acceptance that Black men receive in general and the ensuing emotional crisis that has resulted from this.

Many of our Black men (myself included) were taught from an early age to stifle our emotions and mental reservations and never talk about or express them. We are placed in a position to act as though these problems almost don’t exist at all within our culture. They CAN’T exist. Because mental disability brings with it unwanted scrutiny, ridicule and shame. We as Black men are up against enough and therefore cannot accept anything that will place more negativity on us.

As a result, when real mental problems do arise, stereotypically we are slower to get the help we need. Our respected Black elders and mentors will tell us that the problems are only “in our head” and therefore they can be controlled. But on the contrary, this only allows them to metastasize in the same manner as a cancer and slowly destroy us from within.

What drew me to this project was the main character Malcolm’s plight in this arena. Like me, Malcolm is a good man with a good heart who was raised by good parents to treat everyone with unconditional love and respect. He is a loving person who is looking to be loved in return. All of the socioeconomic challenges that have befallen many men in the Black community have not affected Malcolm, and he is living very well. He has the right job, the right home, the right car and ticks all of the boxes that make him the proverbial “catch”.

However, below the surface lies a quiet ongoing battle with a schizoaffective disorder that in the past has debilitated him and resulted in him being committed to a mental health facility. Although he steps out of the aforementioned stereotype to get all of the help he can to navigate this challenge, an outside force (Maya) inserts herself into the equation and exploits his past mental health diagnosis for her own gain.

Maya does all she can to negate—at least in the eyes of Malcolm’s outside observers (including his protective older brother Adrian)—the hard work that he has done to achieve functionality with his disorder. Malcolm is then thrust into the situation I mentioned earlier where he is ridiculed, scrutinized and shamed. Everything he has worked so hard to avoid.

But his desire to clear his name and restore his dignity awakens a side of Malcolm (a will to fight both figuratively and literally) that he didn't know existed and he comes out even stronger on the other side. This is what initially drew me to this story.

One of the things I felt strongly about in the making of Briana Cole's *Pseudo* is that I wanted this film to shed some light on mental illness. I understood that we could make a typical psychological thriller about someone being framed as mentally ill and taken advantage of as a result. But I wasn't really interested in making a film like that. I wanted to make a film that allowed audiences to feel what someone who has a history of mental illness feels. I wanted them to empathize and know what it is like when someone tries with every fiber of their being to escape the stigma of being "crazy" only to be pigeonholed and not believed by the ones who claim to love them the most.

At the same time, it was important to keep the film surprising in its emotion and arc.

To this end, I worked closely with our musical director to use sound and music to interact with visual elements like Maya lookalikes and even an alternate version of one scene that revealed an early conversation between Malcolm and his mother was actually only with a VISION of her because in reality she was deceased.

I hope the audience finds it satisfying because the interaction of all of the elements of the film were very important to me."

- **Herschel Grangent Jr., *Director***

TOPE

PSEUDO is a drama with elements of a psychological thriller, surrounded by a special bond a family shares for one another. At times, the characters will question their reality while dealing with love and loss. The narrative will prove to be a trip through all of life's emotions: Grief, lust, loneliness, acceptance, and finding love in difficult situations. It even addresses the stigma of mental health in the Black community. With online dating being a common practice, the topic will relate with today's society. The film contains universal themes such as love, mental health, adult responsibilities & the fight for one's family which remains constant throughout. PSEUDO will resonate well with diverse audiences as it volleys back and forth to unravel the intriguing past of the main tormented character. Overall, the story will prove to be an immersive experience.

PRAISE

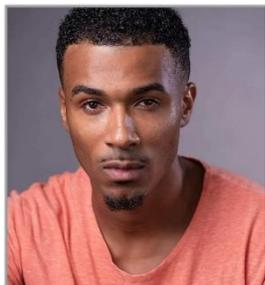
*"The movie **Pseudo** was a great psychological thriller. Pseudo had a lot of twists and turns that kept you on the edge of your seat and trying to figure out plot. Overall, it touched on mental health issues that made it very relatable having dealt with life issues such as death of a loved one that could make anyone mentally vulnerable as the lead male character. Awesome movie!"*

- Paula Cobb, Brilliant Women in Film



CAST BIOGRAPHIES

JIMEZ ALEXANDER



Jimez Alexander is an actor from New Orleans, Louisiana. He studied theatre at Belhaven University and has performed in plays such as *Twelfth Night*, *In Lieu of Flowers*, *Voyage of the Little Mermaid*, and Alliance Theatre's *Darlin' Cory*. He graced the silver screen in the Sundance award winning film "Ballast," season two of "Choosing Chasity," "Haunting in Connecticut 2" and his most recent credit being Briana Cole's "Pseudo."

Jimez is the founder and teaching artist of Parables in Motion, a performing outreach company that uses theatre to teach mindfulness, life lessons, and hope for a better future. He is also a puppeteer, musician, husband, and proud father of three. Jimez is represented by The Brock Agency.

JASON HARMON



Jason Harmon has appeared on the television shows *Snapped* on the oxygen network, *Saints and Sinners* on Bounce TV, and *Ozark* on Netflix. He has also appeared as the captain of an elite military squad in the independent film, *Finding It*. Worked with Emmy Award winning independent film director Diego Silva Acevedo in the indie films, *Endicott Falls*, and *Haunting Souls*. Having trained in martial arts for years, and studied stage combat, he enjoys performing his own stunts. Jason also has a passion for music and can play several instruments. He lives in

Atlanta going on adventures with his wife Noelle and his two children, Bianca and Dominic.

BRANDY BAILEY



Brandy Bailey made her acting debut in "For Colored Girls Only" as Lady in Yellow in May 2017. Since then, she has appeared in over 10 films and theatre productions. During her four year acting career, Brandy has worked with Merle Dandridge, Anthony R. Paige, Briana Cole, and many more. Theatre fans will recognize Brandy from "Mama Knows Best" as Raven Simone. On television, she can be seen as a nurse in "Greenleaf." Highlights of her movie credits include Dayna in "Pseudo" and Carla in "Sunday."

CANDICE L. JONES

Candice L. Jones is an African-American actress, singer, playwright, stage production director, and liturgical dance choreographer. She is a native of Nashville, TN and holds a Master's degree in Education. She has written and produced 14 stage plays to date. Her awards include Best Actress in the 2018 Memphis Artsy Awards and Star of the Year in the 2019 Industry Network actor's showcase in Los Angeles, CA. She is the owner of IV Vines Studios, LLC providing services of liturgical dance, Zumba fitness, independent film, and stage production. Candice currently trains with Premier Actors Network in Atlanta, GA and is signed to YJB Talent Agency.

FILMMAKER BIOGRAPHIES

HERSCHEL GRANGENT JR. (Director)



Herschel Jerome Grangent Jr. is an actor, voice actor, talk show host, writer, producer and director from Atlanta, GA. The University of Georgia graduate is a former broadcast journalist and crisis communicator who possesses a wealth of knowledge gained during stints in the military, law enforcement and emergency management. Herschel's acting credits include *Snapped: Killer Couples*, *ATL Homicide* and other projects, but he made the decision about two years ago to focus more on producing and directing. His first foray into directing began with co-directing the feature film "Composition" (post-production). Since then he has directed five short films as well as a talk show and is currently in production on the feature film "Pseudo". Herschel and his wife—actress, producer and director Tawania Grangent—have three adult children and currently reside in Douglasville, GA.

TAWANIA GRANGENT (Producer)



The Producer behind "Pseudo" is Tawania Grangent. A Philadelphia Native, wife and mother, Tawania started acting in the Theater as a teen but loved the stage much sooner. Her love for the Arts led her to Film during the height of Atlanta's booming industry where she would Star and Co-Star in many Independent and Big Studio Projects including Fox's *The Resident*, *Fatal Attraction* and her own Feature Film "Composition". Tawania and her husband would soon take their careers further by starting three Production Companies which focus on making tv and film at affordable rates while employing talent that is often overlooked by major studios.

JD HARVILL (Director of Photography)



J Davis "JD" Harvill was born in the 60's, educated in the 70's, released upon the world in the 80's, established in the 90's, settled in the 00's, and reborn in the 10's; having survived a major Stroke in March 2010. A military brat who claims to have lived in 13 states before he was 13, JD has always loved movies and theater. Since 2016, J Davis (JD) Harvill has produced & directed three independent short films (*Work is Murder*, *Lost-n-Found*, and *Summer of Hearts*), and assisted on many others (*Cabin Bound*, *What Love Revealed*, *The Dollar Bill Theory*, *Forgiveness*, *Individually Wrapped*, *The Corner*, *The Springs*, *Composition*, and a host of smaller projects). When JD is not writing or on location, he stays involved with three Atlanta based Film Festivals (*ATLFF*, *Terminus & Out On Film*) and one Community Theater Company (the new *Out Front Theater*).

BRIANA COLE (Screenwriter and Executive Producer)



Known as The Literary Drama Queen, Briana Cole is a multi-talented entertainment mogul in both the book and film industries. She is the author of the nationally acclaimed Unconditional series and has also penned several novels under her alternate pseudonym, Brielle Montgomery. Briana began writing short stories and poetry at a young age, then went on to use her poems to start a greeting card business in high school. After graduating Cum Laude with a Bachelor's degree from Georgia Southern University, she has published over seven novels with Kensington Books. Briana is the co-Screenwriter and Associate Producer for the pulp urban noir film, "Gutta Mamis: Money Bag Tales" and "Trap Soldiers." She has been in a number of community theater projects, commercials, movies, and tv shows, including Fatal Attraction and Trois 3: The Escort. In 2019, Briana took on the role of Editor-in-chief when she launched Blacktition, a digital, interactive magazine spotlighting black creative entrepreneurs. She is also a motivational speaker and website/creative designer. Briana has been recognized in a number of popular blogs and magazines, the most prominent being Sophisticate's Hair Magazine, Popsugar, Sheen, Frolic, and Delux Magazine. She is an Atlanta native, proud mother of three, and active member of the illustrious Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated organization. She is currently represented by MI Talent.

BENJAMIN WILLIAMS (Music Director)



Hailing from Atlanta GA; BenReal is a creative with diverse influences shaped by his experiences living from Asia to Europe and throughout the Southeast US. Formerly known as Lyrical Assassin, his Ultra-Modern sound sparks both wonder and nostalgia blending Golden Era Hip Hop, R&B Soul, and elements of Contemporary Trap. He is a member of the songwriting duo 'REAL THEORY' with Robb Theory as well as a collaborator in a music collective called THE 'BAND OF MOGULS' with Sabrina Rasha and Kam Moto-- within each creating refreshingly experimental vibrations. In 2021, BenReal launched his Freeative Heights® imprint to cultivate, empower, and promote originality in arts and media. BenReal has also been commissioned to Executive Produce the soundtracks and score music for the feature films "PSEUDO" and "COMPOSITON" -- as well as the short film "Duty To Listen."

CREDITS

CAST	
Malcolm Terrell	Jimez Alexander
Maya/Naomi/Jasmine	Briana Cole
Adrian Terrell	Jason Harmon
Mimi "Maya" Watson	Candice Jones
Dr. Winfield	Tawania Grangent
Dayna Terrell	Brandy Bailey
Mr. Terrell	Herschel Grangent Jr.
Mrs. Terrell	Laura Joswick
Kenny	Tyler Burt
Mr. Hill	Terry Miller
Waitress #1	Deborah Charise Smith
Lounge Hostess	Bella Trixx
Lounge Singer	Angel Sent
Hotel Clerk	Victoria White
Restaurant Hostess/Bank Representative	Gretchen Brocard
Gentleman	Desmond Seryce
Jogger Maya Look-A-Like	Summer Frazier
Restaurant Couple Male	Ronnie Cole III
Restaurant Couple Female	Kameeka Williams
Diner 1	Usha Tyson
Food Truck Vendor	Roy Johnson Jenkins
Food Truck Maya Look-A-Like	Asia Alexander
Detective Maya Look-A-Like	Andria Chappel
Detective	Mike Maurine
Police Department Visitor	Sonya Statham
Drunk Man	Charles Branson
Drunk Man's Wife	Linda Thorton Shaw
CREW	
Director	Herschel Grangent Jr.
Producers	Tawania Grangent Herschel Grangent Jr.
Co-Producer	JD Harvill
Executive Producer	Briana Cole
Screenwriter	Briana Cole
Production Manager	Tawania Grangent
Cinematographer	JD Harvill
Music Director	Benjamin "BenReal" Williams
2 nd Camera Assistant	Jamie Antonio Falu

	Ronald Jackson Boyd
Production Assistant	Andria Chappell Alex Ayers Taliyah Baptiste
Post-Production Supervisor	Herschel Grangent Jr.
Editor	JD Harvill
Script Supervisors	Andria Chappell Jaime Falu
Boom Operators	Roland L. Carter Herschel Grangent Jr. Ricky Mitchem
Casting Director	Tawania Grangent
Casting Associates	Briana Cole Herschel Grangent Jr.
Lead Hair Stylist	Falicia Guidry
Assistant Hair Stylist	LaShunda Catrice
Make-up Department Head	LaShunda Catrice
Make-up Artist	Kameeka Williams
Wardrobe Manager	Wanda J. Newton
Office Manager	Aimee Wallace-Hodo
Finance Manager	Judy Booker
Special Effects	J. Davis Harvill
Stunts	Jason Harmon
Stand-In	Elizabeth I.F. Hurley
Additional Footage	Storyblocks
Special Thanks	Pasta Max McDonough Pound Cake Pleasures Atl. Blu Water Seafood T.K. Sims

Filmed on location in and around Atlanta, Georgia

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MUSIC CREDITS

1. 'Pseudo (Shadow Work)'; Written by Benjamin Williams, Sabrina Williams, Kamal Williams; Composed By: JayWoodBeatz; Performed by BenReal, Sabrina Rasha, Kam Moto; Courtesy of Freative Heights
2. 'For Me'; Written and Composed by Gregory Lance & Angel McKenzie; Performed by Angel Sent; Courtesy of New Sounds Production
3. 'Outsiders'; Written and Composed by Kamal Williams; Performed by Kam Moto; Courtesy of Pariah
4. 'Prescription Drug'; Written by Sabrina Williams, Benjamin Williams; Composed by: Danny E.B Tracks; Courtesy of Pink Diamond Records
5. 'MoneyFall' ; Written by Sabrina Williams; Composed by: HypeNoType ; Performed by: Sabrina Rasha; Courtesy of Pink Diamond Records
6. 'Gotham'; Written, Produced, and Performed by NOR KIN4LIFE; Courtesy of NOR KIN4LIFE
7. 'Home Soon'; Written and Performed by Butterfly Feels; Produced by NOR KIN4LIFE; Courtesy of Butterfly Feels
8. 'Cinematic Haunting Action Trailer with Sound Design and a Slow Build; Composed and Performed by: Media-Music Group; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
9. Cinematic Suspense Orchestra Strings and Harp; Composed and Performed by: Media-Music Group; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
10. 'Epic Hollywood Tension Build'; Composed and Performed by: Media-Music Group; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
11. 'Disturbing Events (Looping)'; Composed and Performed by: Jonathan Mogavero; Courtesy of Presstone Publishing and Storyblocks.com
12. 'Dark Ambient Suspense Tension'; Composed and Performed by: Media-Music Group; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
13. 'Ambience Background'; Composed and Performed by: Media-Music Group; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
14. 'Underwater Mystery'; Composed and Performed by: Jonathan Mogavero; Courtesy of Presstone Publishing and Storyblocks.com

15. 'Dark Electricity';
Composed and Performed by: Jonathan Mogavero; Courtesy of Presstone Publishing and Storyblocks.com
16. 'Escape'; Composed and Performed by: Jason Szarek; Courtesy of BMI and Storyblocks.com
17. 'Epic Cinematic Tension Build Stinger Transition Trailer'; Composed and Performed by: Media-Music Group; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
18. 'Relaxing Atmospheric Background'; Composed and Performed by: Tencher Music; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
19. 'Ambient Tension Soundtrack Trailer'; Composed and Performed by: Media-Music Group; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
20. 'Connecting Shadows'; Composed and Performed by Michael Vignola; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
21. 'Open Ended'; Composed and Performed by Lance Conrad; Courtesy of Humans Win Publishing and Storyblocks.com
22. 'Hums'; Composed and Performed by Lance Conrad; Courtesy of Humans Win Publishing and Storyblocks.com
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25. 'Office Walla Light Phone Rings Elevator Bell'; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
26. 'Scary Film Atmosphere'; Composed and Performed by Bobby Cole; Courtesy of SI Publishing and Storyblocks.com
27. 'Restaurant Ambience 01'; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
28. 'Nocturnal'; Composed and Performed by Ronan Mcquillan; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
29. 'Late Night Moody Ambience';
Composed and Performed by Tencher Music; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com

30. 'First Steps'; Composed and Performed by Marshall Usinger; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
31. 'Hey Low Ley'; Composed and Performed by Kamil Guszczynski; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
32. 'Gloomy'; Composed and Performed by Jermaine Culbreath; Courtesy of BMI and Storyblocks.com
33. 'Old Friends'; Composed and Performed by Donovan Glenn; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
34. 'First Transmission'; Composed and Performed by Michael Vignola; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
35. 'Dark Ambient Mystery'; Composed and Performed by Christina Nemo; Courtesy of BMI and Storyblocks.com
36. 'Strong Wind in Suburb'; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
37. 'Forever Unsolved'; Composed and Performed by Jonathan Mogavero; Courtesy of Presstone Publishing and Storyblocks.com
38. 'Do You Trust Me'; Composed and Performed by Michael Vignola; Courtesy of Storyblocks.com
39. 'Virus Outbreak'; Composed and Performed by Ladislav Weyrosteck; Courtesy of Jabameister and Storyblocks.com
40. 'D&D Ambience | Prison | Jail, Dungeon, Solitary, Fantasy, Immersive, Rats, Guards RPG Audio'; Composed and Performed by Michael Ghelfi; Courtesy of Michael Ghelfi World's Reference for RPG Audio