

FIVE STAR



PRESS NOTES

The following talent and filmmaker are available for interviews:

Talent: James "Primo" Grant and John Diaz

Writer/Director: Keith Miller

Writer/Director/Editor	Keith Miller
Produced by:	Keith Miller, Daryl Freimark, Luisa Conlon
Executive Producer:	Russell Miller
Co-Executive Producers:	Katie and Tom Hanusik
Co-Producer:	Landon Van Soest
Cinematographers:	Ed David, Alexander Mallis
Composer:	Michael Rosen
Unit Production Manager:	Doree Simon
Assistant Directors:	Ted Schafer, Lily Henderson, Jeremy Levine
Line Producer:	Isaac Wilkins
Starring:	James 'Primo' Grant and John Diaz

Press Contacts:

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SYNOPSIS:

After John's absent father is struck by a stray bullet, Primo takes it upon himself to verse the young boy in the code of the streets—one founded on respect and upheld by fear. A member of the Bloods since the age of twelve—both in the film and in reality—the streets of Brooklyn is all Primo has ever known. While John questions whether or not to enter into this life, Primo must decide whether to leave it all behind as he vows to become a better husband and father. Set during those New York summer weeks where the stifling heat seems to encase everything, Five Star plunges into gang culture with searing intensity. Director Keith Miller observes the lives of these two men with a quiet yet pointed distance, carefully eschewing worn clichés through its unflinching focus. Distinctions between fiction and real life remain intentionally ambiguous, allowing the story of these two men to resonate beyond the streets, as they face the question of what it means to be a man.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:

My process bumps up against both narrative and documentary filmmaking, and I work to disregard the line between fact and fiction to create a heightened, more urgent realism. To that end, the central characters' stories and motivations are derived through conversation with them and then combined with the story. In this case, conversations with Primo lead me to look at what it means to become a man.

With FIVE STAR, as well as my first feature film, WELCOME TO PINE HILL, I aim to capture the messiness of life, in order to make the story more real and concrete. My goal is to create a world that felt present, personal and above all human. To this end, we often shot extremely long takes with multiple cameras simultaneously. Working with an agile crew, we created conditions through which the chaos of everyday life, the poetry of the quotidian, was not just permitted, but encouraged to slip into the filming and the final cut. In the process of the more traditional movies I have shot, the goal is to avoid any real chaos on the set. My goal is the opposite. The central directive to both cast and crew: Reality doesn't stop. We don't stop. I invite the chaos because that is, in this method, where much of the beauty and the intensity comes from. It is a way to invite what I call, the Blast of Reality: when a moment feels so real it is indistinguishable from reality itself. In this moment the charged ambiguity hopefully forces us to interrogate our so-called reality and the many presuppositions therein. While this may cause a moment of discomfort resembling vertigo, it also has the potential to disarm just enough to create a deeply human empathy that for me can go beyond the facticity of documentary and the magic of fiction.

FILMMAKER/CAST BIO'S:

KEITH MILLER, (Writer, Director, Producer)

Keith Miller is a filmmaker, artist, professor and curator. His first feature length film, WELCOME TO PINE HILL, premiered in 2012 at the Slamdance Film Festival where it won the Grand Jury Prize. It went on to win a total of five Jury prizes in the festival circuit playing at Seattle International Film Festival 2012 receiving the FIPRESCI Jury Prize, Atlanta Film Festival 2012 where it received the Grand Jury Prize, Nashville Film Festival 2012 where it received Honorable Mention and the Sarasota Film Festival 2012 where it received the Jury Prize for Best Performance. Distribution for the film is handled by Oscilloscope in the U.S. and Sundance International for International.

Additional filmography from Miller includes his second feature length film, FIVE STAR, featured in the 2014 Narrative Feature Competition at the Tribeca Film Festival and short film PRINCE/WILLIAM.

JOHN DIAZ, (John)

John Diaz was born and raised in Manhattan's Lower East Side. He developed a love of acting while doing theater in high school including a starring role in WEST SIDE STORY. In 2010, he starred in Jeremy Engle's short film MOSQUITO. John also makes music videos, does photography and writes and performs hip hop. He is currently recording his first album, going by the name JDBanks. FIVE STAR is John's feature film debut.

JAMES 'PRIMO' GRANT, (Primo)

James 'Primo' Grant was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He has worked as a bouncer and currently works security with BPE Entertainment, with his mentor Aaron 'A Dolla' Freeman. He also records hip hop tracks with his crew, which includes Kasey 'DJ 2Evil' Anasazi and Leon "Tank" Hearde, who are featured in FIVE STAR. At twelve Primo turned "Blood" and after years in the life he has moved on and is working to be a good father to his children, Sincere and Neveah and a good fiancé and partner to Tamara, all of whom are also featured in the film. FIVE STAR is Primo's feature film debut.

END CREDITS:

Up the street films
presents

in association with
The Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective

A film by Keith Miller

FIVE STAR

Written Directed and Edited by
Keith Miller

Starring
James 'Primo' Grant
John Diaz

Produced by
Daryl Freimark

Produced by
Keith Miller
Luisa Conlon

Executive Producer
Russell Miller

Co-Executive Producers
Katie and Tom Hanusik

Co-Producer
Landon Van Soest

Associate Producers
Alexander Mallis
Ynette and Jim Hogue
Mindy Miller
Lee Weinstein

Directors of Photography
Ed David
Alexander Mallis

Camera Operators
Eric Phillips-Horst
Adam Uhl

Original Score by
Michael Rosen

Line Producer
Isaac Wilkins

Unit Production Manager
Doree Simon

Assistant Directors
Lily Henderson
Jeremy Levine
Ted Schaefer

With

Primo
John
Primo's Wife
John's Mom

James 'Primo' Grant
John Diaz
Tamara Robinson
Wanda Nobles Colon

Bar Owner
Jasmin
Marvin Bernard aka Tony

Larry Bogad
Jasmin Burgos
Yayo Himself

RayLo's Crew

RayLo
Biggs
Louis
Daniel
Vaughn

Donell 'Blizz' Brant
Ryan 'Burberry Biggs' Gooding
Louis Reyes
Daniel Willis
Vaughn Bowman

Primo's Crew

Kasey
Midnight
Vito
Benz
Grimace

Kasey Anasazi
Leon 'Tank' Hearde Jr.
Vito Van Rasan
Benjamin Belotte
John Bonaparte Jr.

Primo's daughter
Primo's son
Tamara's son
Tamara's daughter

Nevaeh Grant
Sincere Grant
Elijah Dixon
E'nyiah Dixon

Dealer
Bodega Dealer
Bodega Dealer #2
Titi

Karim Allen
Jaiden Kaine
John Reese
Lisette Finevelvet Rivera

Assistant Camera

Adam Uhl
Diana Eliavoz
Michael Atkins

Camera Production Assistant

Bradford Burdock
Kelley Van Dilla

Digital Imaging Technicians

Dioni Vazquez
Daniel LaCosse

Gaffer

Zeynep Oguz Catal

Key Grip

Justin McCormack

Swing

Darcy Schlitt

Grip and Electric Intern

Evan Bakal

Location Sound Recordists

Eddie O'Connor
John Cole
Max Phillips
Michael Moote

Steadicam Operators

Ed David
Adam Uhl

Production Designers

Kelley Van Dilla
Jennifer Correa

Wardrobe Supervisors

Mariam Naziripour
Hannah LaCava
Mary Monigold

Location Scout

K. Paisley Wilson

Consulting Editor

Michael Taylor
Jay Sterrenberg

Co-Editor

Iva Radivojevic

Assistant Editors

Tonieh Kaikor Ellis

Additional Editing

Frederick Shanahan

Production Assistants

Lisa Diaz
Molly Gillis
Patrick Leon
Angel Martinez
Elizabeth Mansfield
Tori McCarthy
Mary Monigold
Rowan Shalit
Edward Wardrip

Extras

Andrew Lee
Angel Martinez
Annette Bruno
Anthony Dickson
Brian DeCavallas
Cindy Lerner
Clint Taylor
Dasia Moitt
Denishe Robbins
Eugene Watson
Hasunehana Chaudhury
Igor Meza
Jaleek Battle
James Arias
Janay Virella
Jasmin Gibson
Jennifer Goma
John Wayn
Jose Perez
Jose Wasembect
Josef Haiwo
Joseph Cunningham
Kenneth Nelson
Kim Nelson
Laksheem Newton
Larry Autis
Leonard Anglade
Mario Briggs
Michael Carpenter
Millard Freeman

Nancy Narvaez
O'Kee Wade
Patricia Musat
Richard Bird
Ronique Fletcher
Shakeem Carpenter
Shani-Ali Williams
Soleil Agnant
Timothy Torres
TyJuan 'App' Hill (RIP)
Veena Rao
Victoria Stewart
Xavier Ezel

Post Production Supervisor

DeVoe Yates

Supervisor Sound Editor and Re-Recording Mixer

Michael Suarez

ADR Mixer

Mark Amicucci

Colorist

Alexander Berman

Visual Effects

Chad Sikora

Titles

Jacob Ford

Still Photography

Nathan Fitch

Brad DeCecco

Production Counsel

Gray Krauss Stratford Sandler Des Rochers LLP

Jonathan Gray

Bookkeeper

Henrietta Shannon

Tax Accountant

Erin Estes

Insurance

Laird Criner at Film Emporium

"Keystone Kettle"

Performed by Matt Walker

Matt Walker Music (ASCAP)

Courtesy of Uranus Music

"Nov Beat"

Written and Performed by Jas Walton

"Hava Nagila"

Arranged and Performed by Rick Hall

Courtesy of Bobby Morganstein Productions

"Out of Love"

Written by Michael Petrolawicz, Evany Ryan Arthur, Raymon Temple, Johnel Jamison

Performed by Skip Rage featuring She's Ryan & Johnny Nelson

Produced by Slimmy Neutron

Published by Suffer to Gain (ASCAP)

Courtesy of Hello Halo Records

“Piano 2”

Written and Composed by Joseph Stephens

“Walking Freestyle”

Written and Performed by John Diaz

“5 Star”

Written by John Diaz, Timothy Torres, Anthony Dickson, Brian J. Roberts, Marc Battaglia

Performed by Burn Room Productions

Beat Produced by DEVIZE

www.soundclick.com/DEVIZE

Music 2014 Copyright All Rights Reserved Used Under License

Special Thanks

Tim and Amy Farnan

Adam Feild

Susan Freimark

Sara and David Gail

Harry and Debra Gail

Katie and Tom Hanusik

Carolyn and Howard Leemon

Ilyse Hogue and John Neffinger

Debbie and Jeff Samberg

Lisa Koenig and Sanford Plachter

Donna and Herb Weitzman

Steven Wolfe

Barry Moultrie

Casey Ruble

Dan Nuxoll

Dan Schoenbrun

David Leyden

Elisabeth Holm

Eugene Lehnert

Frederic Boyer

Genna Terranova

Hardball Entertainment

Harvey Robinson

James Cartwright

James Grant

Jonathan Gray

Joseph Rodriguez and Liberty Tax

Josh Mandell

Julie Wang

Linda Lowell

Luisa Antonio Crul

Macy Miller

Mark Elijah Rosenberg

Mark Kaufman

Norman Freimark

Meerkat Media Collective

Mo's

Nicholette Zeliadt

Ofra Bloch

Patricia Bell

Rachael Escalera

Rachel Plutzer

Stephanie LaCapra

Tamara Robinson

Taylor Miller

The Fifth Estate

The Residents of the Walt Whitman Houses

In honor of

Mel Michael Miller

1943-1978

This film would not have been made without the generosity, talent and constant enthusiasm of the Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective.

[LOGOS]

Jerome Foundation/Rooftop Films/BFC/Kitty Guerilla Films

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