

MAKE IT HAPPEN.

Independent Short Film



Directed/Written by: Aaron Sterling
Starring/Written by : Adrian Sterling
Produced by: Solène Moreau

Runtime: **18** minutes

CONTACT

ADRIAN STERLING:
Mradriansterling@gmail.com

LOGLINE:

A determined athlete wrestles with his inner demons while faced with the opportunity of a lifetime.

SYNOPSIS

Akeem Swift (Adrian Akeem Sterling) dreams of one day becoming a Pro Football player and freeing his mother from a life of poverty. After training for months, he receives an email with the opportunity of a lifetime, an invite-only private workout taking place in five days. During this week Akeem's confidence is shattered, and his determination turns into anxiety sending him into panic attacks. As he continues to grow more and more anxious he wrestles with self-doubt due to past disappointments. He studies, works tirelessly, relentlessly day and night to prepare for Saturday.

Make It Happen, is based on a true story, about Adrian Akeem Sterling's pursuit of the NFL. The story is co-written by Director, Aaron Sterling and Lead Actor, Adrian Akeem Sterling.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

As the youngest of four brothers, growing up I was able to observe the joys and pains of chasing a dream. I would watch my brothers struggle to make money doing what they love and see the pure ecstasy of when they had a breakthrough.

At the age of eighteen years old, I wanted to make a movie about the kind of scars these journeys can leave on a person. So one of my older brothers, Adrian Sterling and I spent months writing the script to tell this side of the story.

Out of 1 million high school football players only about 3.6% will play in college, out of that less than 2% will get drafted into the NFL. Our goal is to capture the courage and the mental toll it takes to pursue your passion when the world keeps saying you shouldn't. Make It Happen is a tribute to my brothers and all those who dare to defy statistics.

Q&A with Director, Co-Writer: Aaron Sterling and Lead Actor, Co-Writer: Adrian Akeem Sterling

Q: What inspired you to become a director, and at the age of 18 years old prestigiously direct your first short-film? What did you do to prepare for this opportunity?

Aaron: Movies had such a large impact on my life and were like a religion to me growing up. I have three brothers, and we probably went to see movies 2 or 3 times a week for the last few years.

I've always enjoyed breaking movies down and trying to figure what works to tell the story and what could be done better. Once I started diving into it, I began taking classes at NJ Film School, excelling in my classes and being moved to the advanced program in just a few short weeks. I knew that I could do this, and I want people to have the same experiences great movies have given to me.

Q: Why did you write "Make it happen"?:

Adrian: I had all this pain and resentment built up in me for years after everything happened with football. Acting was really great at helping me express and release it. After receiving the advice from my acting teacher, Craig Archibald about creating my own work, I went to Aaron who helped me write it before he went away to LA Film School. He's the only person in the world who could have directed something so personal. He had front seats to the entire story!

Q: What has been your favorite part of making 'Make It Happen'?

Adrian: Getting our Kickstarter fully-funded! Those 30 days to raise \$15,000 was the most challenging part but also extremely rewarding. Seeing the people in our community and beyond support us validated the importance of this story. And it was also such a humbling experience!

Q: What were the biggest challenges in making the film?

Aaron: Shooting this film was probably the most intense five days ever. Me and Adrian both played sports in high school and Adrian obviously all the way through college. But we both agreed that our five days of shooting were more brutal than any game or workout we've ever done. It was crazy preparing, plus putting all the health and safety measures in with coronavirus. It was mentally and physically exhausting. But we got it done!

Q: What's the role of music in the film?

Aaron: We were very fortunate to have truly gifted artists support our project and lend their music to help tell our story. I think the music in our film is gonna set it part from every short film this year because it's so specific and unique. I think it'll be a real treat for the audience. Both Mission, and The Late's music is some of the BEST parts of our film.

Q: Do you have ideas for developing this short-film into a feature film?

Aaron: We are just taking this journey day by day. We think we told this story in the perfect amount of time. But there are definitely elements within Make It Happen that we can expand on so that'll be interesting to see what happens in future..

ABOUT THE CAST + CREW

Aaron Sterling -- Director, Co-Writer

Aaron Sterling, a gifted young director who is a natural leader, a clear communicator, and a visual thinker. He is a graduate of NJ Film School, and incoming student at LA Film School. At the age of 18 years old, he directed and co-wrote, [Make It Happen!](#) Aaron's goal is to leave an indelible mark on the film industry as a Director. His influences include Ryan Coogler, Damien Chazelle, and Quentin Tarantino.

Adrian Akeem Sterling -- Lead Actor + Co-Write

[Adrian Akeem Sterling](#), a Brooklyn-born actor of Trinidad and Chinese descent. He's a Meisner trained actor with on-camera training to perfect his skills. He's worked closely with Bob Krakower, Ted Sluberski, and Craig Archibald. He refined his improvisation skills at the prestigious, PIT. Adrian is the lead actor, and co-writer of the drama short, [Make It Happen!](#) He has also led independent feature films, shorts, web series, and has booked roles on CBS tv shows.

Solène Moreau -- Producer

Solène Moreau, a French actress-producer based in New York City. She recently was on the production of, *Drying Eyes*, the new feature film of award-winning director and screenwriter, [Onur Tukul](#). She has also trained with Deena Levy Theatre Studio for a one year conservatory including Grotowski, Method, and Meisner techniques. Solene also produced the independent short-film, [Make It Happen](#). In the past year, she has also produced a new feature film *Bitter Sugar*, and directed Venezuelan artist Pia Paez.

Wesley Meseroll -- Director of Photography

Wesley Meseroll, from Connecticut, is a Director of Photography and graduate of New York Film Academy's cinematography. He's a retired Air Force veteran with 20 years of service in aviation. Wesley's focus, dedication, and professionalism have been vital to the 30 independent short films, documentaries, and feature films.

Nat Magee -- *Editor*

[Nat Magee](#), a professional Editor with a passion for film, specializes in post-production, trailers, and promotions. With eight years of experience working as an editor for prominent tv shows including [9-11 LoneStar](#) (Fox), [The Incredible Jessica Jones](#) (Netflix), and [Snowfall](#) (FX).

Evan Joseph -- *Composer + Sound Design*

[Evan Joseph](#), a New York City based Music Compose and Sound Designer, was awarded the Director's Prize for best student composition at the 2010 Robert Helps Festival and Competition. He is also a sound engineer for [WNET Thirteen](#), PBS's flagship station.

Elias Nousiopoulos -- *Colorist*

[Elias Nousopoulos](#), a New York City-based Colorist, currently the colorist for [Saturday Night Live](#) (SNL). The Colorist on Sundance award-winning "Green" and "Dunya's Day". He has also worked on the A24 distributed and Gotham award-nominated film, [Waves](#), and last year's independent spirit award winner [Uncut Gems](#).

FILM CREDITS

Director + Co-Writer
Lead Actor + Co-Writer
Producer

Aaron Sterling
Adrian Sterling
Solene Moreau

PRODUCTION

Joey
Mom
Anina
Director of photography
Camera Op
Sound Department
1st AC
Gaffer
Set Designer
Hair and Makeup
Production Assistant
Costume Designer
Craft Services
Covid Compliance Officer

Chris Manuel
Suzette Wong
Anina Monteforte
Wes Meseroll
Marshall Victory
Walid Alhamdy
Joey Haley
Neal Bafna
Kay Widdoss
Jennifer Smith
Garrett Fredrick
Adam 'Supe' Sterling
Belle Ward
Steve Simmons

POST PRODUCTION

Editor
Colorist
Composer + Sound Design

Nat Magee
Elias Nousiopoulos
Evan Joseph

SOUNDTRACK:

"Struggle"

Performed by: Mission

Written by Antonio Woods and Kenneth Anthony Agee

© 2020 AOYNOM (ASCAP) admin Music Services

"Foolish & Young"

Performed by: The Late

Written by The Late

© All rights administered by Anthony Wong (US)

"Morning"

Performed by: The Late

Written by The Late

© All rights administered by Anthony Wong (US)

"Bad"

Performed by: The Late

Written by The Late

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PHOTO GALLERY







HEART IS EVERYTHING

MAKE IT HAPPEN

"MAKE IT HAPPEN" a Sozette's Sons Picture with ADRIAN AKEEM STERLING music and sound design by EVAN JOSEPH edited by NAT MAGEE director of photography WES MESEROLL
executive producers LUCAS A FERRARA and MATT SIMMS written by AARON and ADRIAN AKEEM STERLING produced by SOLENE MOREAU directed by AARON STERLING

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

www.makeithappenthefilm.com

The poster features a vibrant background of red and orange with a bright yellow light beam cutting across it. On the right side, there is a silhouette of a woman in a red dress and high heels walking on a path. The text is overlaid on this background.