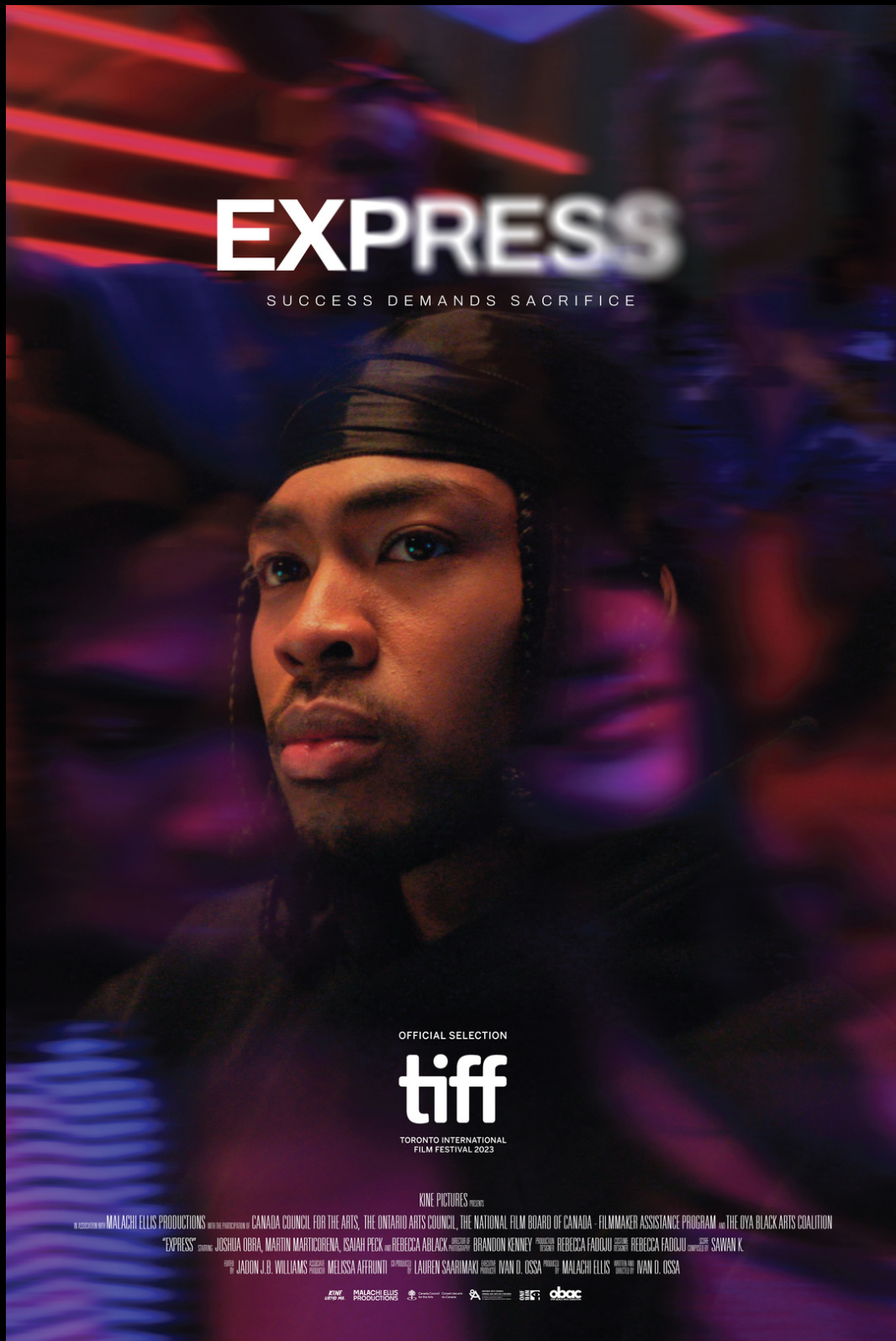


# ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



**DIRECTOR, WRITER & EXECUTIVE PRODUCER  
IVAN D. OSSA**

**STARRING  
JOSHUA OBRA  
MARTIN MARTICORENA  
ISAIAH PECK  
REBECCA ABLACK**

**PRODUCED BY  
MALACHI ELLIS**

**CO-PRODUCER  
LAUREN SAARIMAKI**

**ASSOCIATE PRODUCER  
MELISSA AFFRONTI**



## LOGLINE

When Tarik is coerced out of his success-oriented schedule to celebrate what seems to be a lifetime achievement, he is confronted by one of life's ironies.

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## DIRECTORS STATEMENT

We live in a world where your occupation is so intertwined with your identity that after you give your name, the next question asked is, "What do you do?". When asked what you've been up to, most people instinctively talk about work. With social media shoving hustle culture and people's life highlights down our throats, It's no wonder my generation has become obsessed with the idea of early material success. "To live your life, you must first build it."

Sadly, I'm also a victim of this mentality. I have this innate feeling that tells me we're put on this earth to experience connections, but I can't seem to shake off my aspirations. I'm the type to turn down a night out because I told myself I have to finish a project. I struggle with balancing living my life and building a better one. I know I'm not the only one. I told myself that I'm working hard now to rest later, but since when is your time on earth promised? How do I know today isn't my last? Isn't life itself the whole point? Why am I sacrificing experiencing my life for the sake of a future that isn't guaranteed?

These are the questions that gave birth to this script.



## IVAN D. OSSA

### Director, Writer & Executive Producer

Ivan D. Ossa is an award-winning director, writer and actor based in Toronto, Ontario. Adapting his father's love for motion pictures, it wasn't long before Ivan decided to learn about filmmaking. Post academics, Ivan became the protégé of prolific music video director Julien Christian Lutz PKA Director X. He most recently worked as a showrunner assistant on Director X's new TV drama Robyn Hood.

Ivan's written, directed, and executive-produced short films that have received recognition from various domestic and international film festivals; In Other News (Standout Producer In A Short Film Award at the 2021 Reelworld Film Festival, Best Student Director (Male) at the Independent Shorts Silver Awards), It's You (Award of Excellence at the One-Reeler Short Film Competition, Best Romantic Short at the Independent Shorts Bronze Awards)

Throughout his career, Ivan aims to continue writing and depicting humanity. He wants to make thought-provoking films that encourage empathy, brings about peace and instills hopefulness and love in viewers. He is a storyteller who has been lucky enough to find film as a medium to achieve these artistic, professional and personal goals.



## MALACHI ELLIS

### Producer

Malachi Ellis is a Black Gay Producer based in Toronto. He is an alumnus of TMU's Media Production & OYA Media Group's Emerging Filmmakers. Post academics, Malachi has focused on telling diverse and authentic stories that challenge the status quo and amplify BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ voices.

His producing skills have led him to work at some of the largest Canadian production companies, such as eOne and Bell Media. As an independent producer, he has worked with some of Canada's most talented emerging writers/directors. His most recent producing credits include I Live Here (Aspen Shortsfest, CBC Gem), Diaspora (TIFF, Palm Springs International ShortFest), and FISH BOY (BFI Flare, Frameline47).

Malachi is currently a participant in both the Reelworld Producers' Program and the Canadian Film Centre's Norman Jewison Film Program: Producers' Lab. In 2021, Malachi participated in Kidscreen's The Next Wave: Diverse Voices program and was named one of Playback Magazine's 10 to Watch.





## LAUREN SAARIMAKI

### Co-Producer

Lauren Saarimaki (she/they) is a producer, actress and mental health advocate. She is an alumna of TMU's Creative Industries program. She has contributed to film sets in roles such as production manager, location manager and production coordinator. However, her focus is producing. She co-produced *Streams Flow From A River* (dir. Christopher Yip). The series had its international premiere at 2023 Canneseries. She also co-produced the feature film *Queen Tut* (dir. Reem Morsi).

She held the role of Executive Director at the Future of Film Showcase in 2018. In 2023, she was the festival coordinator for the Get Reel Mental Health Film Festival. She currently works at Fae Pictures as Director of Operations. She hopes to continue to build a career in film and mental health advocacy by focusing her work in the not-for-profit sector and explore the relationship between art and healing.



## JOSHUA OBRA

### Tarik

Born and raised in Scarborough Joshua Obra is an aspiring actor with a hunger for exploration and growth. With an insatiable passion for storytelling and a fresh face in the industry, he embraces each opportunity with enthusiasm, determined to leave a lasting impression on both audiences and fellow artists.

Beyond his artistic pursuits, Joshua is known for his humility and down-to-earth nature, which endears him to colleagues and fans alike. He thrives on collaboration and is constantly seeking new challenges to push the boundaries of his craft. As he continues to captivate audiences with his undeniable talent and dedication, Joshua Obra remains an actor to watch, with a bright future ahead in the entertainment industry.

# STARRING

JOSHUA OBRA AS TARIK

MARTIN MARTICORENA AS JONATHAN

ISAIAH PECK AS LEX

REBECCA ABLACK AS SASHA

REON LUCAS AS RAY

TIM BERESFORD AS HENRY

IDRISSA SANOGO AS JAMES KINE



# PRODUCTION CREDITS

CINEMATOGRAPHY

BRANDON KENNEY

PRODUCTION & COSTUME DESIGN

REBECCA FADOJU

EDITOR

JADON J.B. WILLIAMS

1ST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

ABRAHAM DAVID

LOCATION MANAGER

DON DIGDOYO



CASTING

MILLIE TOM & RACHEL OSBOURNE

2ND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

ADAMO VITALE

3RD ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

CIARAN FEDERICO

INTIMACY COORDINATOR

MACKENZIE LAWRENCE

PRODUCER'S ASSISTANT

TOFUNMI OLOWOGORIOYE



**DRIVER / PRODUCTION ASSISTANT  
AARON WILLIAMS**

**SOUND RECORDIST  
JOHNNY CHAU**

**BOOM OPERATOR  
ALBERT QUAN**

**1ST CAMERA ASSISTANT  
CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE**

**2ND ASSISTANT CAMERA / DMT  
MARIA HABIB**



**CONTINUITY SUPERVISOR  
ALISE ROSEMIN**

**GAFFER  
ZEYAD SABER**

**SWING  
JANE LUKASHOVA**

**SET PHOTOGRAPHERS  
PATRICK BROCHU**

**HAIR / MAKEUP  
ZO KESWANI**



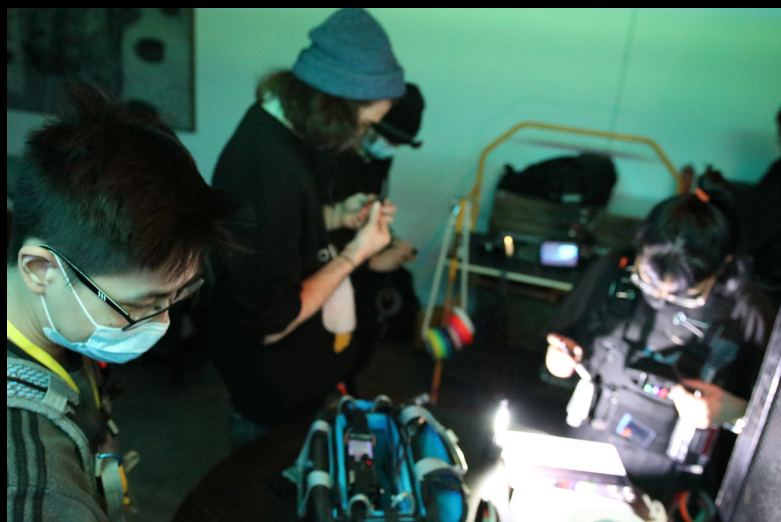
**ART DIRECTION  
FRANCES SANTIAGO**

**WARDROBE SUPERVISOR  
ALEX FILATOVA**

**ASSISTANT COSTUME DESIGNER  
ARIANNA CANCIAN**

**ASSISTANT LOCATION MANAGER  
MATT JOHNSON**

**ART DEPARTMENT ASSISTANTS  
DONNA BOZORGEBRAHIMI  
ABASI EKPENYONA**



**ASSISTANT EDITOR  
ALINA GEANA**

**COMPOSER  
SAWAN K.**

**POST PRODUCTION SERVICES  
URBAN POST**



## MUSIC

**“RESCUE U?”  
WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY LAUREN DART  
PRODUCED BY LAUREN DART  
MIXED BY LAUREN DART & DREAH BARDINE  
COURTESY OF REMIE**

**“GIFTED”  
WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY MATTHEW WORKU  
PRODUCED BY MSRY - MATTHEW CITO  
COURTESY OF MATTHEW WORKU**

**“TELL SOMEBODY”  
WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY SAGE HARRIS, PREME AND KAP G  
PRODUCED BY C-GUTTA, TERRENCE ROWE, MIKE DUPREE & SAGE HARRIS  
MIXED BY DOMINIC (DOT) OKUNE  
MASTERED BY MIKE SMITH  
COURTESY OF SATURDAY LIFE RECORDS**

**“WEDNESDAY”  
WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY MIGHLOE  
PRODUCED BY DEAN VISSER & ARON CHOONSINGH  
MIXED AND MASTERED BY ARON CHOONSINGH  
COURTESY OF MIGHLOE**

**“RUN THE MONEY”  
WRITTEN BY JOHANNE RUDOLPH  
PERFORMED BY TIA BANKS  
PRODUCED BY ANDREW LIBURD  
MIXED BY JOSEPH FO  
MASTERED BY FARHAN ARIS  
COURTESY OF HOUSE OF NEPTUNE INC.**

**“POP ONE POP TWO”  
WRITTEN BY MOSES EDWARD  
PRODUCED & PERFORMED BY DIWAY  
MIXED & MASTERED BY GMASTERED AUDIO  
COURTESY OF MOSES EDWARD**



THIS FILM WAS PRODUCED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF



Canada Council  
for the Arts

Conseil des arts  
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL  
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO  
an Ontario government agency  
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



Filmmaker Assistance Program



PARTNERS IN  
PRODUCTION



House



Canadian Media  
Producers Association

ACTRA  
TORONTO





# CONTACT

## General Contact

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## Media Contact

Cynthia Amsden  
cynthia@roundstonepr.com

## Websites

[www.malachiellis.com/productions/express](http://www.malachiellis.com/productions/express)  
[www.ivandossa.com/express](http://www.ivandossa.com/express)



@expressshortfilm

## Crew IG Handles:

@princeiive  
@producedbymal  
@laurensaarimaki  
@melissa\_affrunti  
@loveobra  
@isaiahpeck  
@beckyablack

@reonlucas  
@mansa.idrissa  
@bk.visualz  
@r\_jpg  
@jadon\_john  
@sawankmusic

**KINE**  
**UKIYO MA**<sup>ITD.</sup>

**MALACHI ELLIS**  
**PRODUCTIONS**

