



# Saint Joe

# OVERVIEW

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## LOGLINE:

After a desperate act lands him on the run, a panicked young father-to-be finds himself cornered in a church, where he forms a bond with an unlikely companion whose quiet strength and compassion force him to confront the mess he's made.

A man in a dark polo shirt is shown from the chest up, with his right arm raised and fist clenched. He has a determined expression on his face. The background is a dimly lit church interior with pews and a flagpole.

**A TRIUMPH OF DIGNITY AND REDEMPTION**

**WHY**

**IN THE UNITED STATES IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 70% OF BABIES ARE ABORTED WHEN DIAGNOSED WITH DOWN SYNDROME FROM A PRENATAL SCREENING.**

*- Prenatal Diagnosis Volume 32, Issue 2*



## STORY

A drama that shares the story of an improbable relationship between an unlikely felon, his pregnant girlfriend, and an extraordinary janitor at a local chapel.

Joe is a blue-collar guy slinging pizza and beer. Tess is a nursing student barely scraping by. Their whirlwind romance takes a sharp turn when Tess gets pregnant, and they learn their baby will likely be born with Down syndrome.

Fear and pressure mount when Joe loses his job. One bad night spirals into a desperate act: he assaults a store clerk and flees with a gun and stolen cash. On the run from police, Joe ducks into a quiet church and meets Brian, a kind-hearted janitor with Down syndrome.

In the most unlikely of circumstances, the two men form a bond. Brian tends to Joe's wounded hand, sneaks him back inside after they lock themselves out, and even shares his

pizza. As the night deepens, Joe confesses everything. When police surround the church, Brian tries to buy Joe time—but the officers interrogate Brian, causing him to panic. Brian discovers the money and gun, and Joe, hearing the chaos, rushes back to help but takes a bullet that Brian unintentionally fires. As he's rushed to the hospital, Brian lights every prayer candle in the sanctuary.

Tess visits Joe in prison. He's changed, ready to be a father. Months later she meets Brian at the church's pregnancy aid center where he volunteers. Brian reflects on how much Joe meant to him. Tess goes into labor and Iris takes her to the hospital where Tess gives birth to a beautiful baby girl. Two years later, Joe and Brian are coaching a kids' flag football team. They win on the final play. Tess and their daughter run onto the field, surrounded by a community built on second chances, resilience, and love.

**SOMETIMES THE MOMENTS YOU DON'T PLAN FOR...  
ARE THE ONES THAT CHANGE EVERYTHING.**

## **AMPLIFYING LIGHT**

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**LIFE HAS A WAY OF SURPRISING US, OFTEN THROUGH THE PEOPLE WE LEAST EXPECT. WHAT BEGINS IN UNCERTAINTY OR FEAR CAN SHED LIGHT ON DEEPER UNDERSTANDING. AND IN WELCOMING THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS INTO OUR LIVES, WE DON'T JUST FIND CONNECTION - WE FIND JOY, PURPOSE, AND A NEW WAY OF SEEING THE WORLD.**

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## IMPACT

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*Saint Joe* offers a powerful opportunity to foster empathy, awareness, and inclusion for individuals with special needs. Through its heartfelt storytelling and unexpected friendship at the center, the film creates space for meaningful dialogue beyond the screen – a catalyst for conversations around dignity, fatherhood, and the importance of seeing and valuing every human being. A hopeful voice for the 70%.



**DIFFERENT DOESN'T MEAN LESS. IT NEVER HAS.**

# THE TEAM



## Gabriel McCauley - Director

Gabe is an Emmy-winning writer and storyteller driven by a singular purpose: to shape the culture of tomorrow through the power of film. Known for emotionally rich narratives, Gabe's work inspires audiences to reflect, grow, and engage more deeply with the world around them. His signature style blends unexpected comedy with grounded, dramatic realism—capturing life's complexity. As founder of liDRAGON and Soul Feather Studios, Gabe has built a creative legacy across genres and formats, from network TV to indie film. He directed nine seasons of national television, including the Emmy-winning docuseries *Reconnecting Roots* and the acclaimed *Joey+Rory Show*. His feature debut, *Heaven Bound*, showcased his voice in long-form storytelling. Gabe also hosts *Reconnecting Roots*, now in its fourth season on PBS.



## Steve Sherman - Writer

Steve is a lecturer in acting and playwriting at The University of Tennessee. Originally from the Pacific Northwest he holds an MFA in Acting from the University of Tennessee and BA in Theatre from Western Washington University. He was invited to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. for his one-act play *Brian and Joe* which he adapted into this screenplay. His plays have received productions and readings in Washington, California, New York, Florida, Tennessee and Washington D.C. As an actor he has performed professionally Off-Broadway, at regional theaters, the Kennedy Center, and in numerous independent films and commercials. Steve has had a love for people with special needs. He and his wife are parents to a joyful little daughter with cerebral palsy and an adventurous boy who loves old pickup trucks.

## Personal Connection

Gabe McCauley and Steve Sherman are both fathers to children with special needs. Steve has a daughter with Cerebral Palsy, while Gabe has a daughter who passed away due to complications from Loey's-Dietz Syndrome.

PURE FLIX

FATHOM  
ENTERTAINMENT

 PBS

 ANCHOR BAY  
ENTERTAINMENT

# THE TEAM

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## Brittany Bannon - Line Producer

Brittany has been working in the Nashville film business since 2001, when she arrived to intern at RuckusFilm. Her internship quickly turned into a job as Associate Producer on the television series, *Live at the Bluebird Café*. Between seasons, she began producing music videos for Jason Aldean, Little Big Town, Blake Shelton, Brooks & Dunn, and many more. Her attention turned to feature films after line producing *Blue Like Jazz* in 2010. *Blue Like Jazz*, was the first crowd-sourced feature through the fundraising site, Kickstarter, and an early pioneer in modern Christian filmmaking. As her love for larger projects grew, Brittany began taking Production Office work on *Nashville*, *Stoker*, *Boulevard*, and *The Identical*. Her first accounting job was on *Other Versions of You* where she created a system for managing the low-budget feature and walked them through their state incentive rebate process. This skill set helped her on recent features such as *Josephine* for Hickory Films and *Doctor/Patient* for Embark Features. Currently, she is a production manager for Embark Features and day plays for Soul Feather Studios. Her dream is to spend time on projects that matter with storylines that inspire.



## Chris Haggerty - Cinematographer

Chris is a talented cinematographer and director of photography based in Nashville, Tennessee. With an impressive track record as an award-winning professional, Chris has garnered recognition for his work across a variety of mediums, including commercials, music videos, and feature films. Over the span of more than 10 years in the film industry, he has meticulously honed his craft in of Los Angeles, California, before ultimately making the decision to relocate to Nashville, where he continues to thrive. Chris has a deep-seated passion for uncovering and articulating the story inherent in every project he undertakes. He employs light, camera movement, and a strong sense of authenticity, all of which come together to create visually stunning narratives that resonate with audiences in captivating ways.



LIONSGATE®



# PARTNERS

## Angel Studios

We have partnered with **Angel Studios** to distribute our film – you know them from ground-breaking projects such as *The Wingfeather Saga* series, *Sound of Freedom*, *Cabrini*, and the internationally acclaimed series, ***The Chosen***. We are deeply passionate about this film, particularly its life-affirming message for those with special needs, and are excited about the profound impact it will have.

## Collide Productions

Collide Productions is the film and episodic production arm of Collide Media Group, dedicated to elevating media that inspires a deeper relationship with Christ. We partner with filmmakers, studios, ministries, and storytellers to develop, produce, and launch stories that deepen faith, cultivate compassion, and encourage meaningful cultural engagement.

Drawing on Collide Media Group's extensive experience designing release campaigns for acclaimed feature films, documentaries, and purpose-driven media, Collide Productions frequently partners with projects from early development through release, providing strategic guidance in marketing, audience development, and distribution planning to help build momentum, expand reach, and maximize impact. Select productions include *The Promised Land*, *Daniel*, and *Fool's Guide to the Bible* among others.

**ANGEL**  
STUDIOS

**Collide**  
PRODUCTIONS

## FROM STAGE TO SCREEN

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**BRIAN AND JOE** was written and produced as Steve Sherman's senior project at Western Washington University, and was invited to the Northwest Drama Conference where it was awarded the Davey Marlin Jones Award; a national award for Outstanding Production of a One-Act play. Steve was invited to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington D.C. for his portrayal of Brian, and for his original script. The Kennedy Center then awarded Steve an a fellowship to the Tony Award winning Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center in Waterford, CT, where Brian and Joe was read.

Brian and Joe has also been performed in New York City and in Los Angeles (directed by Rocco Ambrosio) at the Catholic Athlete's for Christ's annual retreat.

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**Saint Joe** IS BASED ON THE AWARD  
WINNING PLAY "BRIAN AND JOE."

# FUNDING THE FEATURE

- Contained story allows us to keep production costs low, while elevating production quality to the highest standards.
- A-List cast + a genre that performs well at the domestic box office creates a marketable impact film.
- Mission oriented marketing strategies appeal to an engaged audience hungry for these kinds of stories.

**PROJECTED BUDGET: \$1.9 MILLION**

## COMPARABLE FILMS



**Budget: \$1m**  
**Estimated Gross: \$5.4m**



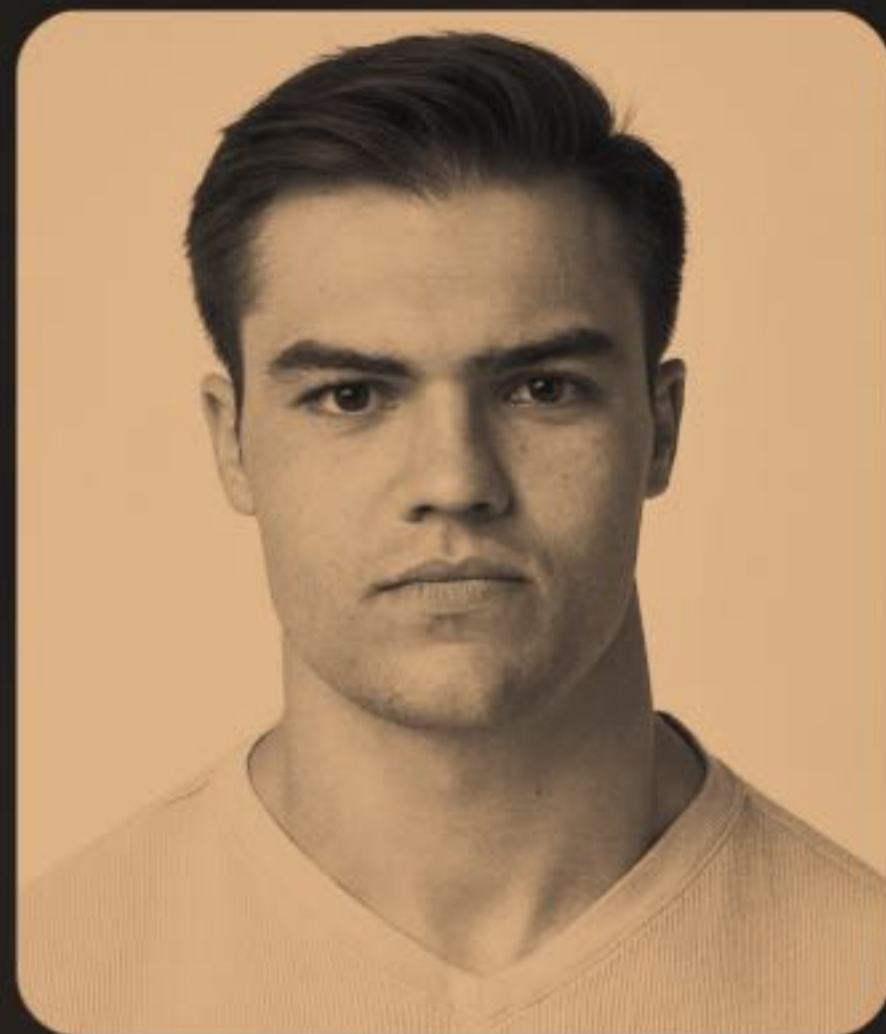
**Budget: \$6.2m**  
**Estimated Gross: \$133m**



**Budget: \$10m**  
**Record Breaking sale to AppleTV+**

# CASTING

Christian Shupe



**JOE**

David Desanctis



**BRIAN**

Anna Grace Barlow



**TESS**

Kimberly Williams-Paisley



**IRIS**

# PRODUCTION TIMELINE

**PACKAGING AND FINANCING**

June 2026 - Sept 2026

4MO

**PRE & PRODUCTION**

Oct 2026 - May 2027

8MO

**MARKETING**

June 2027 - Sept 2027

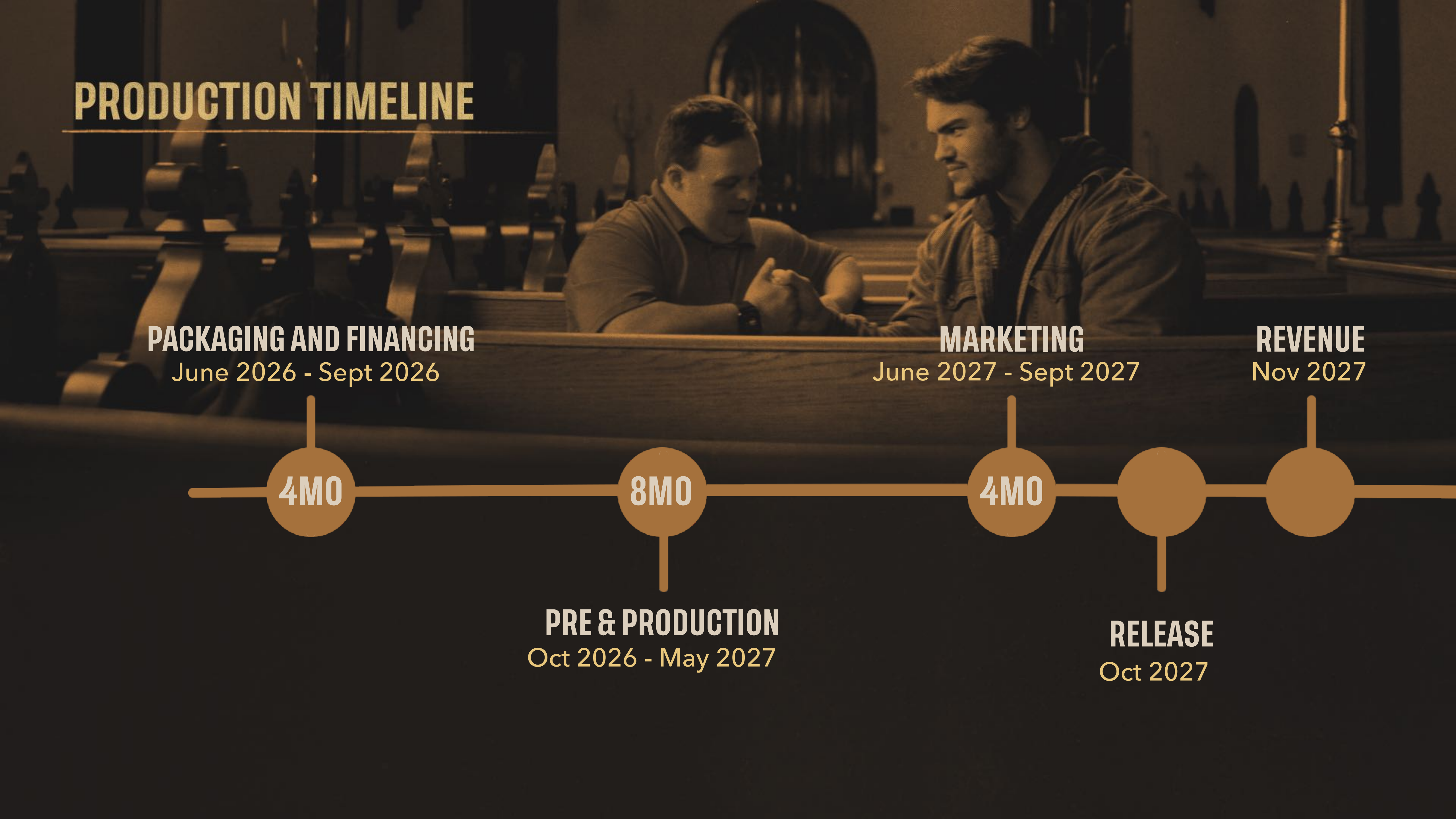
4MO

**RELEASE**

Oct 2027

**REVENUE**

Nov 2027





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FOR THE 70%