

A REMEMBER AMERICA FILM

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**JOSHUA HENRY** Writer & Director

MICHAEL SCHMUCKER Producer



## **OVERVIEW**

# **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

*Carry Me Home* is a completed historical narrative short film, currently seeking television distribution. Based on a true story, the film features Karen Abercrombie (2015's *War Room*) as Harriet Tubman, the notable abolitionist who helped over 70 people escape from slavery in 1860s America. The film works for all audiences, and plays especially well for faith-based audiences – it won multiple awards at the Christian Worldview Film Festival in 2017. At 23 minutes, it is well suited for a 30 minute television slot.

# LOGLINE

In the cold winter of 1860 America, a young mother trapped in slavery seizes the opportunity to escape with her family on the Underground Railroad, after encountering Harriet Tubman.

# **PROJECT DETAILS**

Genre: Historical, Drama Status: Completed, Seeking Distribution Total Production Budget: <\$100k Duration: 23min Production by: LampHouse Films in association with Dayspring Christian Academy



#### SYNOPSIS

In the cold winter of 1860 America, Maria Ennals might as well be dead. A young mother trapped in slavery her whole life, she is numb to the world around her, as the slaves are worked tirelessly... and are whipped if they don't fall in line.

One night, she hears soft singing in the forest, and goes to investigate. She encounters none other than Harriet Tubman, on one of her runs to free more slaves. Harriet has come back for her sister, only to find that she's recently died. Harriet extends an offer of escape to Maria.

After some reluctance, Maria retrieves her infant girl and her husband Stephen, and the family heads into the night with Harriet.

As the sun comes up, they arrive at their first stop on the Underground Railroad – a network of abolitionist safe houses that provide safe passage to escaped slaves heading north. The group only travels by night, and hides during the day, lest they be seen.

The next night, the group isn't keeping pace, and Harriet decides to lead them across a raging river to make it to the next safe house before dawn. Maria adamently objects, citing the freezing conditions for her infant. Harriet knows they're as good as dead if the sun comes up, so she pulls a pistol on her traveling companions and forces them across! (This really happened.)

Stephen injures his foot in the river, and the group is freezing

and soaked. Harriet runs ahead to the next safe house, only to find that her expected contact was not there – he'd been evicted for harboring slaves! Harriet encounters the new tenent, who immediately grows suspicious and contacts the town authorities.

The sun is up, the town is alerted to their presence, and the group has nowhere to go. They lay down and hide in a nearby swamp. Harriet immediately drops to her knees in prayer, which Maria has found is Harriet's usual response to most situations.

In town, Calvin, an abolitionist Quaker, hears that there are escaped slaves nearby, and heads out to the surrounding area to see if he can help.

Meanwhile in the swamp, all hope seems lost. Maria lashes out at Harriet, blaming her for everything. Her prayer interrupted, Harriet retorts – "If there's one thing I know about the Good Lord, it's that he always figures a way –every time!" Maria walks off into the swamp, drops to her knees, crying out "Lord help us!"

At that moment, Calvin is walking by, repeating out loud to no one in particular that there's a wagon in his barn nearby. Maria hears this, and is stunned... a miracle! (This also really happened.) Maria is finally alive again!

The group retrieves the wagon, and after a brief encounter with the authorities, escapes safely on the Wilmington train north.

# CAST



#### KAREN ABERCROMBIE Harriet Tubman

Karen Abercrombie is an award winning actress, Parents' Choice Award winning storyteller, and singer-songwriter. She received the Movieguide Grace Award, for her performance as Miss Clara in the 2015 Kendrick Brother's film, War Room. Abercrombie has guest starred on several television shows including her most recent roles as Zelda Molskey on CBS's The In*spectors*, Aberdeen on AMC's hit show *Turn*: Washington's Spies, and oncologist Stephanie Briggs on Vampire Diaries. Abercrombie continues to create & produce uplifting, thought-provoking entertainment for the big screen and for the stage, through her production company Tapestry Entertainment, LLC.



**LINDSEY GRIMBLE** Maria Ennals

Lindsey Aeriel Grimble, originally from Springfield, Illinois, studied musical theatre from The American Musical & Dramatic Academy in New York City and has been acting professionally in theatre since the age of 14. In 2006 Lindsey moved from New York to Los Angeles where she was introduced to film. Shortly after her move, Lindsey began acting in commercials and television. *Carry Me Home* is Lindsey's first lead in a film. She continues on in musical theatre, currently performing a primary role as Mary Magdeline in Sight & Sound Theater's epic stage production, *Jesus*.



#### **JOEL ASHUR** Stephen Ennals

Joel Ashur didn't begin acting until his freshmen year of college when he developed a love for both theater and film. He has since taken roles in over 18 different plays, having leading roles in many of them including *Carousel*, *Into the Woods*, and Sight & Sound Theater's epic production, *Samson*. He also has worked on three different short films taking lead roles in *The Ride* and *Capeless Wonders*.

### THE FILMMAKERS



LAMPHOUSE FILMS

Production Company

Since 2014, LampHouse Films has produced hundreds of commercial and promotional films. LampHouse is known for its emphasis on tight, focused storytelling, and a

commitment to the highest production values. In addition to its ongoing commercial work, LampHouse develops and produces feature length narrative films and documentaries, and is currently seeking coproducers, sales agents, and financiers for its development slate. Based in Pennsylvania, with its generous 25% Film Tax Credit, LampHouse Films is well connected to affordable, high quality, talented, and efficient film personnel who are ready and willing to work. *Carry Me Home* is LampHouse's first internally produced narrative short film.



#### DAYSPRING CHRISTIAN ACADEMY Co-Producer

Dayspring Christian Academy is one of about 25 Principle Approach<sup>®</sup> schools in America. Its rich and elevated classical curriculum trains the hearts and minds of their students

to understand and apply truth. Through its Remember America Films initiative Dayspring seeks to honor God by illuminating His providence in America's history. The films are based on true stories that have been carefully researched and masterfully told.



# **JOSHUA HENRY**

Writer & Director

As one of Central Pennsylvania's most talented working directors, Joshua Henry has written and directed hundreds of commercial and promotional films. Josh has a deep and

studied understanding of storytelling and story structure for film. Josh wrote and directed *Carry Me Home*, and is the writer of LampHouse's upcoming feature-length family adventure drama, *Facing The Wild*. Actors appreciate Josh's vision and style of directing, staying true to his own vision of the film, but giving them the room to explore and share their creative talent. Josh also has ample experience directing children and animals. *Carry Me Home* is his narrative directorial debut.



# MICHAEL SCHMUCKER

Produc

Michaelhasproducedhundredsofcommercial documentary & narrative films since 2009. With a background as a cinematographer, and a wide range of filmmaking expertise

– from lighting & cinematography, to the technical aspects of post production, to the nuances of budgeting and accounting – he knows how to get the most production value out of any budget, up onto the screen. Michael originated and produced *Carry Me Home*, and in 2018 he successfully budgeted and secured the 25% Pennsylvania Film Tax Credit for a \$600,000 action feature.

### **LEARN MORE**

# WATCH THE FILM

Trailer: <u>Vimeo</u> Full 23-Minute Screener: <u>Cinando</u> 4-Minute Synoposis Screener: <u>Vimeo</u> Web: <u>www.HarrietTubman.movie</u>

# CONTACT

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"Carry Me Home is such an important snippet of history that our generation needs to know and must not forget."

Christian Worldview Film Festival



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