# THE NOTICE FOUNDATION

**6TH ANNIVERSARY** 

WILLOW (SHORT FILM)



Written & Directed by Paul A. Notice II



STUART CINEMA & CAFE

SUNDAY, JUNE 18TH, 2023 | SCREENING W/ Q & A 79 WEST ST., BROOKLYN, NY 10013 the notice blog.

# WILLNW

Written & Directed by Paul A. Notice II

#### **SYNOPSIS**

After Peer Consumption is legalized in Moja One, their utopian governance and ideals like universal healthcare, universal education, universal employment, and a Ban on Police are overshadowed by a predatory housing market paired with vampiric cannibalism. Desperate to pay rent, or risk being eaten alive, Willow, a brooding elected observer of alt worlds & timelines, better known as a Griot, navigates her way to Power.

In Moja One, a successful 1811 German Coast Slave Revolt leads to a multi-ethnic near-utopia, outlawing White Supremacy and most systemic instruments it uses. However, in this reality, consuming others grants one electrical power, regenerative healing, and the memories of their victim - a metaphor that viscerally reveals capitalism's inherent violence, and toxic allure.

"Willow: House of Griots" is an Afrofuturist TV series that wields the non-linear nature of time & alt world travel as a vehicle to examine the ways in which socio-political events of the past can impact the present and future.

After the screening, join NY Emmy Award-winning producer and creator of "Willow," Paul A. Notice II, for a Q & A discussion about their newest iteration of "Willow," a project that begun as a play in 2012 (see page 9 for more). Following the premiere of our short film at The Nuvorican Poets Cafe, and Juneteenth screening at Stuart Cinema & Cafe; will begin production in September 2023 of "Willow: House of Griots"

Please consider joining other arts advocates by making a tax-deductible donation to support our upcoming production of Episodes 1 - 4 of "Willow: House of Griots" at: donorbox.org/willowhorror, or via the QR Code on this page by August 31st. Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated!



### 6TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON THE NOTICE BLOG

Paul A. Notice II | Executive Producer & President Elliot Guilbe | Vice President Glenn Quentin | Treasurer

PROUDLY PRESENTS

# WILLOW

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY PAUL A. NOTICE II

ASHLEY NOEL JONES ANNE-MARIE AGBODJI SUZANNE DARRELL PAUL A. NOTICE II FRANCK MAXIM JUSTE JUSTIN BLAKE BROIDO

HAIR AND MAKEUP LISA JONES

CINEMATOGRAPHY **DENNIS ROBERT THOMAS** PAUL A. NOTICE II

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER CEDRIC LEIBA JR.

**EDITOR** PAUL A. NOTICE II

GAFFER ATLAS LEE-REID

SCENE PHOTOGRAPHY SASHA CHAROENSUB PAUL A. NOTICE II

**PRODUCERS** 

SET DESIGN PAUL A. NOTICE II

PAUL A. NOTICE II SUSWANA CHOWDHURY KATRINA ANN REID PIERRE JEAN GONZALEZ

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER THE NOTICE BLOG

This project is made possible, in part, with funds from the Media Arts Assistance Fund, a regrant partnership of NYSCA and Wave Farm, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

We acknowledge the land on which The Notice Blog presents this work, as rightfully belonging to the Munsee Lenape and Wappinger people. In this, we not only honor the legacy of the multitude of Indigenous people who flourished here, but fully support them in their struggle to both protect their lineage, culture and history; and to regain what was unjustly taken.

#### (SHOWN IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)







Suzanne Darrell



Paul A. Notice II



Anne-Marie Agbodji



Franck Maxim Juste



Justin Blake Broido

TATUL IZ 1 D	A 11 NT 1T
Willow Kerubo Brown	Ashley Noel Jones
Vanessa Masiko Drew	Suzanne Darrell
Shaka Dola Benjamin	Paul A. Notice II
Sasha Obama II	Anne-Marie Agbodji
Caleb (World #214 Bartender)	Franck Maxim Juste
Jacob (World #214 Bar Patron)	Justin Blake Broido

# WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Ashley Noel Jones (Willow Ker**ubo Brown**) is an actor/musician/ writer/director and graduate of NYU's Tisch School of the Arts (BFA with honors in Theatre/Africana Studies.). Her Film/TV/Podcast credits include: "The Calling" (NBC/ Peacock), "Rare Objects" (Dir. Katie Holmes), "Limetown" (Sylvia), "It's the Uniform" (The Notice Blog), Anomaly, Grave Mysteries, featured in Grammy nominated artist James Bay's narrative album/short film "Electric Light." Theater credits include: "Mirrors" (Next Door @ New York Theater Workshop), 365 Days/Plays (The Public), "In The Line" (A.R.T/NY), "Goliath" (Williamstown), "Mad Cool" (Ayo Edebiri) "She Like Girls/A Burning Church" (The New Ohio, and "Tempest" (NOLA Project.)

Her Music credits include: Mercury Lounge, World Cafe Live, Rockwood Music Hall, featured by Afropunk, Instagram, AirBNB, Hilton Hotels. You can hear more of her music projects on all the music platforms. EP/Album: Les Reveries of Une Jeune Noire, Live From A Saturday Night. She has composed multiple songs and an original musical for young audiences as a teaching artist and Director of Elementary Programs of DYCD after-school arts programs in NYC Public schools. Her original music and score will soon be featured in the documentary series Our Likeness that follows cultures of women across the world. Social media: IG/Twitter: @ noelashley FB: @ashleynoeljonesmusic

**Suzanne Darrell (Vanessa Masiko Drew)** is a Bermudian actor with an MFA in acting from the Actors Studio Drama School at Pace University. She is also a classically trained Contralto. Recently, she was seen in Cate Wiley's "Two Truths and a Lie."

Her credits include "Mirrors" (Bird), both the film and @NYTW; "Next Door" by Azure D. Osborne-Lee; Katori Hall's "Children of Killers" (Mama); and the Obie Award-winning Harlem 9's 48 Hours in Harlem C3's "Where the Sun Don't Shine," (Mother). See more at: www.SuzanneDarrell. com

Paul A. Notice II (Shaka Dola **Benjamin**) is a multidisciplinary performing artist from NYÛ (MFA <sup>5</sup>11) and Georgetown University (BS '09). Acting credits include: their performance in the 2010 GLAAD Award-Winning play "She Like Girls" (Working Man's Clothes), "Samuel I and K" (Passage Theater) which earned them the City of Trenton's 2011 Certificate Of Appreciation, "Toast/Lost Boys" (The Notice Blog), "The Race 2020" (Soljourn Theater), "We Will Prevail" (Larry Bao), "You Can't Die Here" (BRIC TV), and being host of "The Notice Blog" TV show (BRIC TV).

For 9 years and counting, Paul stars as Nelson and Antonin Mooncrest, in the award-winning podcast The Once and Future Nerd. Find it wherever you find your podcasts!

Anne-Marie Agbodji (Sasha Obama II) attended the Lycée Francais de Moscou, and received training in acting from Aaron Davis Hall, Terry Schreiber Studio, and Wesit-Barron Studios. Recent credits include The Pod Generation (MK2), The Goldfinch (Amazon Studios), Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan (Amazon Studios), Encounters (Hope Media), Les Papiers Volants (Dancing Dervish Inc.), Chromosome 4 (Nomada Films), Foreign Sounds (E. Shahinian), Mania (A. Shakanova). She is represented by AMA Talent Agency.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Willow" will be screened without intermission, followed by a Q & A Discussion with the Writer & Director Paul A. Notice II

Franck Maxim Juste Jr. (Caleb [World #214 Bartender]) is an actor, comedian, Blerd and Girl Dad; raised in Brooklyn, and currently based in LA. Actor/Comedy credits include: Burbank Comedy Festival Best of the Fest 2022, American Candy, Vote Safe California, Nextgen America, Film 14, and Sherman's Showcase, premiering Oct 26th. Check out franckmjuste.com to keep up with stand up dates and other news.

Justin Blake Broido (Jacob [World #214 Bar Patron]) is an actor from San Antonio, TX earned an BFA in Acting at Rutgers University. His recent theatre credits include: "This is Our Youth" (Off-Broadway), "Twelfth Night" (Shakespeare's Globe), "cal and grey" (NY Fringe Festival), "Hamlet" (John DeSotelle),



### **MEET THE PRODUCERS**

Paul A. Notice II (Writer, Director and Producer) is an NY Emmy Award-winning producer, with over 12 years of filmmaking and theater experience, and a proud graduate of Georgetown University (SFS '09) and NYU (MFA '11). They're also the founder of The Notice Foundation, which produces film and multimedia work from BIPOC, Queer, Immigrant, and Working Poor narratives & communities. They've produced, directed, or edited projects for a wide scale of artists including: Mykal Kilgore, Kendra Foster, NIC Kay, Holland Andrews, Cedric Leiba Jr., J. Read, Melanie Charles, Taja Lindley, David Whitwell, and Von Middleton.

Storytelling has been a mainstay in their life, from their written work like the Loraine Hansberry Award-NomiflatoglStocolocd, Tarock, "Ettrpsid (Mi\*king BAACTGotPaloki.Gmbst recent NY Emmy Award-Winning documentary, "Broken Windows" (Elite Daily).

Recently, Paul co-directed and edited, "Release," which recently won Best Experimental Film in the 13th Annual Fargo-Moorhead Film Festival and Best NYC Film in the 17th NYC Downtown Short Film Festival. Their cinematography work also helped "Unbroken" (Dir. by Suswana Chowdhury) win Best Performance in the 2021 Experimental, Dance & Music Film Festival.

For video production and editing inquiries, please contact them at: Paul@thenoticeblog.com.

#### Suswana Chowdhury (Produc-

**er)** is an interdisciplinary artist, who works as a film, commercial and event producer managing high-value, large-scale productions. She dedicates her time to develop narrative film and documentary projects that are reflective of the multilingual, multicultural world she grew up in.

Having worked in corporate digital marketing, she understands the ins and outs of selling a story. She is the co-founder of Ode, a brand strategy and artist management firm. Suswana's Bangla short film, "Dawat" had its world premiere at the 2021 Dhaka International Film Festival and is currently streaming on Roku's GenreTV channel. Suswana has years of experience in curating physical and digital events including an international annual Bengali youth festival.

Passionate in her belief that education is a human right, Suswana actively fundraises to build sustainable and accessible education for girls in developing cities globally.

**Pierre Jean Gonzalez (Producer)** is a stage, film and television actor,

is a stage, film and television actor, director, and producer. He is also an advocate for Latinx and LGBTQ+ visibility and inclusion. He is currently portraying the role of Alexander Hamilton in the national Philip Touring Company production of Hamilton. Pierre founded DominiRican Productions in 2020 with his fiancé, fellow actor, Cedric Leiba Jr out of a need to see more Afro-Latinx and Queer representation behind and in front of the camera. Pierre received his BFA in Acting from Rutgers University's Mason Gross School of the Arts. Pierre was born in the Bronx and continues to make NYC his home.

Cedric Leiba Jr. (Associate Producer) is an actor and co-founder of Dominirican Productions. His recent NYC theater credits include: "I Need Space" (The New Group), "Yellow Brick Road" (Lucille Lortel), "Kingdom" (The Public). Paris: "Carmen La Cubana" (Théatre du Châtelet). Tours: "Rent," "Miss Saigon." Regional: "Chad Deity" (TheaterSquared), "Sweat" (McCoy Rigby Entertainment), "Guys and Dolls" (TUTS), "La Cage" (Goodspeed). Film: "Bros," "West Side Story" Soundtrack. TV: "High Maintenance." @ceddynyc

Katrina Reid (Producer) is a dancer, choreographer, and storyteller. She collaborates with a range of artists who explore performance across dance, theater, ritual, music, and film. Select presentations include: Queens Museum, ISSUE Project Room, the Knockdown Center, Current Sessions, AUNTS at Beach Sessions, the BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center, and Brooklyn Arts Exchange (BAX) as 2016-2017 Dancing While Black Fellow with Angela's Pulse. www. katrina-reid.com



### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Paul A. Notice II (Executive Producer & Founder) is a proud St. Louis native, who continues to produce work that looks through the eyes of the disadvantaged, marginalized and forgotten. They've produced work for MSNBC, OkayAfrica, Re-Entry Rocks, LYFT, The Policing & Social Justice Project, JLUSA, Elite Daily, The Legal Aid Society, FACE Africa, OkayPlayer, Fresco News, even successful Kickstarter campaigns.

It's work that earned them the 2019 Spotlight Gold Award for their recent documentary, A Wonderful World: a Louis Armstrong. An earlier 2019 documentary, "Shaw Boyz" earned the 2019 ISA Bronze Award for Best New Web & Media and the Official Selection. In the same year, Paul directed the gritty psychedelic ode to Newark, "Everything," for Hip Hop artist J Read - which won the 2019 Audio Shoot Unsigned Festival Award for Best Hip Hop Music Video.

Checkout the new episodes of their podcast, The Notice Blog podcast anywhere you find podcasts.

They are the 2022 Jury President of the AD and D Awards, and a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi. Learn more about their latest directing & editing work in the Afrofuturist psychological thriller "Willow," the feature film adaption of Azure Osborne-Lee's "Mirrors," and other pieces at thenoticeblog.com.

Elliot Guilbe (Vice President)

Pardon the informal tone, but I couldn't picture describing myself in the 3rd person for formality's sake. \\_(^-^)\_/ Sorry not sorry. This is me. Ridiculously positive, unapologet-

ically upbeat and outspoken. I've been told I'm super talented in navigating difficult people/situations, conjuring last minute solutions, and crafting compelling digital content; the latter which I have built my career around. Before I devoted my life to mastering the craft of creating content, I was a tech nerd. Having graduated Adelphi University with a BS in Computer Management & Info Systems, I served as Lead Product Support tech to over 65,000 educational institutions and even taught what I knew to 16-24 year olds certifying them in CompTIA and Microsoft certifications, all by the tender age of 25. After picking up my first DSLR, I fell in love with freezing time and creating value by using the eye that I get so much credit for to capture moments for people and brands alike.

Over the last 7 years I've produced, directed, deployed and analyzed dozens of productions/campaigns for the likes of the New York State Assembly/Senate, the MoMa, Columbia University, BRIC Arts Media, Live Nation, Sounds of Brasil NYC (SOBs), AllHipHop.com, T.I., Estelle, ScienZe, and Anthony Flammia to name a few. Needless to say, I've been around like a ring and have had the chance to build with and learn from some truly amazing and impactful people. I'm currently looking to expand upon what I'm great at as it relates to technology, digital media and making the world a better, more sustainable place for future generations (and specifically, my 10 year old daughter) to thrive in.

**Glenn Quentin (Treasurer)** is the founder of Higher Vibrations Collective, and an award-winning artist based in New York City. True dreamer and poet at heart, he is a sun-child originally from Miami FL, uplifting the world through artistry and activism.

Glenn received a B.F.A from Rutgers University Mason Gross School of the Arts and trained additionally at Shakespeare's Globe Theater. High school graduate from New World School of the Arts.

Some director credits includes "Th3 Adopt3d On3" (JeffBrwn) "Showtime" (Midtown International Theatre Festival) nominated for Best Director Short Subject Play, "Too Be Frank" (FR Dubb Productions) "Bi" Season 2 (BiUS Entertainment) Screened at Boston LGBT Film Festival and My True Colors Festival.

Some past writer credits include "Dinner with the Stevensons" awarded Most Innovative Script from the 2013 Thespis Festival, "CrackBaby" (The Griot Festival) and "Carringnton's Rules" (Higher Vibrations Collective.)

Some past producer credits include "Red, White and Detroit" (Crownwheel Pictures) "A Walk Within" (Media Filmz) and "Shampagne" (Miami Webfest/ Hip Hop Film Festival Feature).

He's also the author of "No Place For Us" collection of poetry. Glenn has also taught at North Miami Parks and Recreation Gold Camp, Globe Education, Westside YMCA, Riverdale Y, Boys Club NYC, NYJTL, Barbizon, Arizona Thespians, Ghetto Film School, Recess and Ifetayo.

This project is made possible, in part, with funds from the Media Arts Assistance Fund, a regrant partnership of NYSCA and Wave Farm, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



# **GLOSSARY**

#### LUGANDA (Language of Uganda)

Mwattu / Bambi - Please
Webale (nnyo) - Thank You (very much)
Sitegeera - I don't understand
Ntidde - scared
Kale - OK
Nedda - No thanks
Wangi? / Ogamby Ki? - Pardon me, wha

Wangi? / Ogamby Ki? - Pardon me, what did you say?

Nsonyiwa - I am sorry

erners - White Supremacists convicted of insurrectionist activities, imprisoned in "Reserves," which are the only form of prisons in Moja One.

#### SIA

Segregationist / Insurectionists Anglos - people of European descent who haven't given up their "Whiteness." They're Far Right-Wing leaning, and self-segregate on the "Reservations."

#### Umbuntu

Alternative Emergency care

#### Panic Sensor

Will immediately record the incident through video feeds in the house, as well as contact a heightened tension specialist who will attempt to de-es-



Simanye - I do not know Tunaalabagana - See you later

#### Prosser, Tubman, Smalls

A betting game made popular in World #314 by Alt World Physics majors and professionals alike.

**The G.R.I.O**. - an exhaustive collection of recordings of any kind, including oral tradition from all 856 known alternate worlds.

#### SIWee

Segregationist / Insurectionists West-

calate the moment. Every encounter is rated by both the victims and the offenders

#### Wulo

A solar-powered cell phone-like device of Moja One, that is able to project a hologram in any environment, connect to the GRIO, and to Anansi.

#### Anansi

The World Wide Web in Moja One

#### The Ooomies

The nickname for Ubuntu Emergency

Service Mediators - the replacement for the police in Moja One.

#### Dreams

Night oasis, ma man halim (water of dreamers in arabic), ala (dreams in Yoruba)

#### **Guava Technologies**

Marc Aware's tech and alternate reality travel company

#### **Psych-Link**

a program that allows the Panic Sensor system to read the mind of a specific user. Requires a subscription service.

#### Easy Iké

Moja One's version of a Joe Schmo

#### "Freedom's Journal"

Moja One's version of the New York Times

In Moja One, the Freedom's Journal was still founded on March 16, 1827 as a four-page, four-column standard-sized weekly, Freedom's Journal was the first black-owned and operated newspaper in the United States, and was established the same year that slavery was abolished in New York State.



#### **WORK ID INSIGNIA**

US House of Griots - composed of four the "Sankofa Bird" facing in four different directions surrounding a "Dame Dame," the Adinkra symbol for intelligence and ingenuity.

This represents the Griots' job: looking back into not just our past, but every other alternate reality past, creates and fosters ingenuity and intelligence. They could be described as elected research journalists/public advocates.

# **ALT-WORLD MAP**



MOJA ONE - Willow's World OMEGA ONE - Marc's World (Our World) aka "House Omega" OMEGA NINE - Cece's World 93 DELTA - Grass World SABA NINE - Casimir's Cure World TATU EIGHT - Shaka's Predicted Death

"Omega One"

Marc's world is considered the harshest, and cruelest reality discovered by "Moja One." The Black and Indigenous people from that world, and similar alt realities & timelines within the Omega Universe are both admired and feared for their ability to thrive in a world choked by White Supremacy and fascism.

# **ABOUT WILLOW**



Pictured: Ashley Noel Jones Photography by: Paul A. Notice II

"Willow" is the culmination of evidence-based storytelling, visually-striking cinematography, and editing. Moreover, I'm tying emotional journeys to a larger understanding of policy, action, and politics. This is an alternate reality where the 1811 German Coast Slave Revolt leads to a multi-ethnic utopia that bans White Supremacy and most systemic instruments it uses. However, in this world, consuming others grants one electrical power, regenerative healing, and the memories of their victim. It's a direct metaphor for capitalism that illustrates its inherent violence. And much like Gold and Enslaved people, entire economies are built upon the consumption of the weak, who in this case, are White Supremacists - until "Peer Consumption" is legalized.

The approach of "Peer Consumption," in the face of Willow's warnings being ignored, mimics the issues of Climate Change denial, as well political fatalism that's gripped so many Millennials in the face of January 6th, Corporate Personhood, and the

Supreme Court ending Roe v. Wade. I harness that frustration and conduct an experiment: What if we became ruthless? Uncompromising? Willow's journey will excavate the answers to that, while the backdrop of her world will illustrate how progressive concepts such as Alternatives-to-Incarceration, Universal Basic Income, Free Higher Education, and Ending White Supremacy can work in today's policies.

Growing up as a closeted Queer Black kid in the Midwest taught me a lot about the impact of narratives and mythologies in our daily lives. Whether it was through deconstructing queerphobic and/or Anti-Black mythologies used to justify systemic oppression or examining healthier, more sustainable ways to govern through an amalgamation of stories from academics and activists alike - my direct experiences as the "Other" have been tantamount in my work to go further than what's given. In fact, the motto of my nonprofit production company, The Notice Blog (est. 2017) reflects that: "Always Question. Always Explore."

This short film is just a glimpse into a larger world, that I hope one day to also show. So, enjoy the first foray into the world of "Willow." And remember: "Flesh is Currency."

Always Question. Always Explore.

- Paul N.



### **OUR SUPPORTERS**

DEEP GRATITUDE AND LOVE TO THE DONORS SUPPORTING "WILLOW"

> Lily Bo Lia Bonfilio Marie Casimir Anika Chowdhury Jeannette Colyvas Jim Costanzo Zell Davis Ataefiok Etukeren Vince Ferguson Sarah Flemming Kendra Foster **James Gantt** Ian Harkins Holly Heckart Shiloh Hodges Glinetta Hollins Robin Holmes Russel G. Jones Saleem Kashif Megan & Liv Melissa Noelle Benedict Nguyen Larry Powell **Edward Rice** Katrina Reid Erica Saucedo Tommy Schaperkotter

> > Gabby Sherba Liz Vernon

THIS EVENT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

# THE NOTICE BLOG

SPECIAL THANKS TO

deaf and mumbles **Wave Farm** 

IF YOU ARE NOT YET VACCINATED:

### **PLEASE WEAR A MASK** AT ALL TIMES

Fit the mask over your nose and mouth and secure it underneath your chin.



BE AWARE OF THE **EMERGENCY EXITS** 

THANK YOU

AFTER THE SHOW, **GET SOCIAL!** 

Tag Us:

## **@WILLOWHORROR**

STUART CINEMA







THENOTICEBLOG.COM/WILLOW

# THE NOTICE FOUNDATION



The Notice Foundation (aka The Notice Blog) is a nonprofit corporation, exempt from federal tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, as most recently amended. The Notice Foundation's mission is to further the participation and representation of marginalized groups in Filmmaking, Media, Journalism and the Arts. Here are our main operating programs - made possible by folk like you!

This event is made possible by The Notice Foundation's "Willow Project," which focuses on hiring BIPOC folk behind the camera, as well as in front of the camera, requiring that the production hire 90% BIPOC folx, hire locally, work safely (according to SAG-AFTRA safety guidelines), and to host an ongoing series of panel discussions and workshops for BIPOC/Queer/Marginalized folx in media. And that's not just through furthering representation of BIPOC in "White spaces," but by continuing to encourage their employment in positions of power throughout the entire filmmaking process.

## **SUPPORT FUTURE PROJECTS TODAY!**

Thanks to generous donations from folk like YOU, The Notice Foundation is able to create radical charitable programs that empower BIPOC, Queer,

Immigrant and Formerly-Incarcerated people in media.

Make a tax-deductible contribution to our nonprofit, by using the QR Code on this page, or by clicking the "Support The Notice Foundation" button at:

# THENOTICEBLOG.COM



# ALWAYS QUESTION. ALWAYS EXPLORE.



# WILLOW: EPISODE 1

JUNE 18TH, 2023 | 6PM STUART CINEMA
79 WEST ST, BROOKLYN, NY 11222

BIT.LY/WILLOWSCREENING

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