

combustion films presents

SPECIAL UNIT



synopsis

Due to the fairness in disabilities act the Van Nuys PD is forced to hire four handicapped undercover detectives and their training officer happens to be the worst cop in L.A.





title **SPECIAL UNIT**
 year of production **2016**
 duration **102 min**
 country of production **USA**
 genre **comedy**
 shoot format **UHD**
 finish format **DCP**
 ratio **185:1**
 sound format **5.1 Surround**
 language **english**

principal cast

garrett fowler
 alvin
 sophie
 morgan
 mac
 captain wynn
 tara small
 margie

christopher titus
 david figlioli
 debbie lee carrington
 michael aronin
 tobias forrest
 billy gardell
 cynthia watros
 rachel bradley

principal crew

director & writer
 producers

christopher titus
 randy kulina
 rachel bradley

executive producers

andy cohen
 richard mcwhorter
 christopher titus

cinematographer
 editor

kimo easterwood
 ryan farmer

production designer
 costume designer

megan elizabeth bell
 dawn sharp

SPECIAL UNIT
 COMBUSTION FILMS PRESENTS "SPECIAL UNIT" CHRISTOPHER TITUS, CYNTHIA WATROS, BILLY GARDSELL, DEBBIE LEE CARRINGTON, MICHAEL ARONIN, TOBIAS FORREST, DAVID FIGLIOLI, AND PIAN FARMER. PRODUCED BY MEGAN BELL. WRITTEN BY KIMMO EASTERWOOD. DIRECTED BY RANDY KULINA. RACHEL BRADLEY, DAVID FIGLIOLI, AND CHRISTOPHER TITUS. COSTUME DESIGNER MEGAN ELIZABETH BELL. EDITOR RYAN FARMER. CINEMATOGRAPHER KIMMO EASTERWOOD. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANDY COHEN, RICHARD MCWHORTER, CHRISTOPHER TITUS. PRODUCED BY RANDY KULINA, RACHEL BRADLEY, DAVID FIGLIOLI, AND CHRISTOPHER TITUS.

SURRENDER!
 Before they hurt themselves...



director's statement

After a ten year quest to make a movie starring disabled actors and comedians, SPECIAL UNIT got finished. I have friends who are disabled and they deal with a different world. As I crossed the street one sunny California day, there was a woman on the other side in a wheelchair; she had one leg, purse clenched on her lap and was looking very sad. Everyone just walked by. Not even the normal head nod was given to her by the people who walked past. I walked by and said "What's up kid?" She didn't say "Hello." she said "Thank you." It woke me up to the invisibility they live in. The disabled have an extra tough life. Besides having a disability they have the public looking away, or worse, staring. Imagine living in that, all day, everyday. On top of that Hollywood doesn't utilize them often. If they do it's in a Hallmark movie or playing a "special little hero".

This movie was written to cross that line and stop making them "Special" and instead, make them just like us. Able, angry, funny, demanding, funny, fearless and again, funny. We did not treat them precious at all in this script. You can't make a difference feathering the accelerator so in this movie we pulled the PC limiter and dropped the hammer. The idea for SPECIAL UNIT came to me in a flash and I had to pull my car over because I was laughing so hard. Combustion Films' motto is "Funny First" but after we get that, we want to make a difference with whatever we do. Hope you enjoy the film.

-Christopher Titus

CHRISTOPHER TITUS was a seemingly overnight success with his own TV series, "Titus", in 2000. However, Christopher struggled to reach that peak. His father was a womanizing beer guzzling salesman and Titus endured a series of stepmothers until, at age 12, he decided to run away from home to live with his schizophrenic mother. From these situations he developed what he would call "therapeutic stand-up comedy." With six full length comedy specials complete Titus has now set his eyes on filmmaking, and like his stand-up, he hopes the movies he crafts will make a differences in the world.

lead actors with disabilities



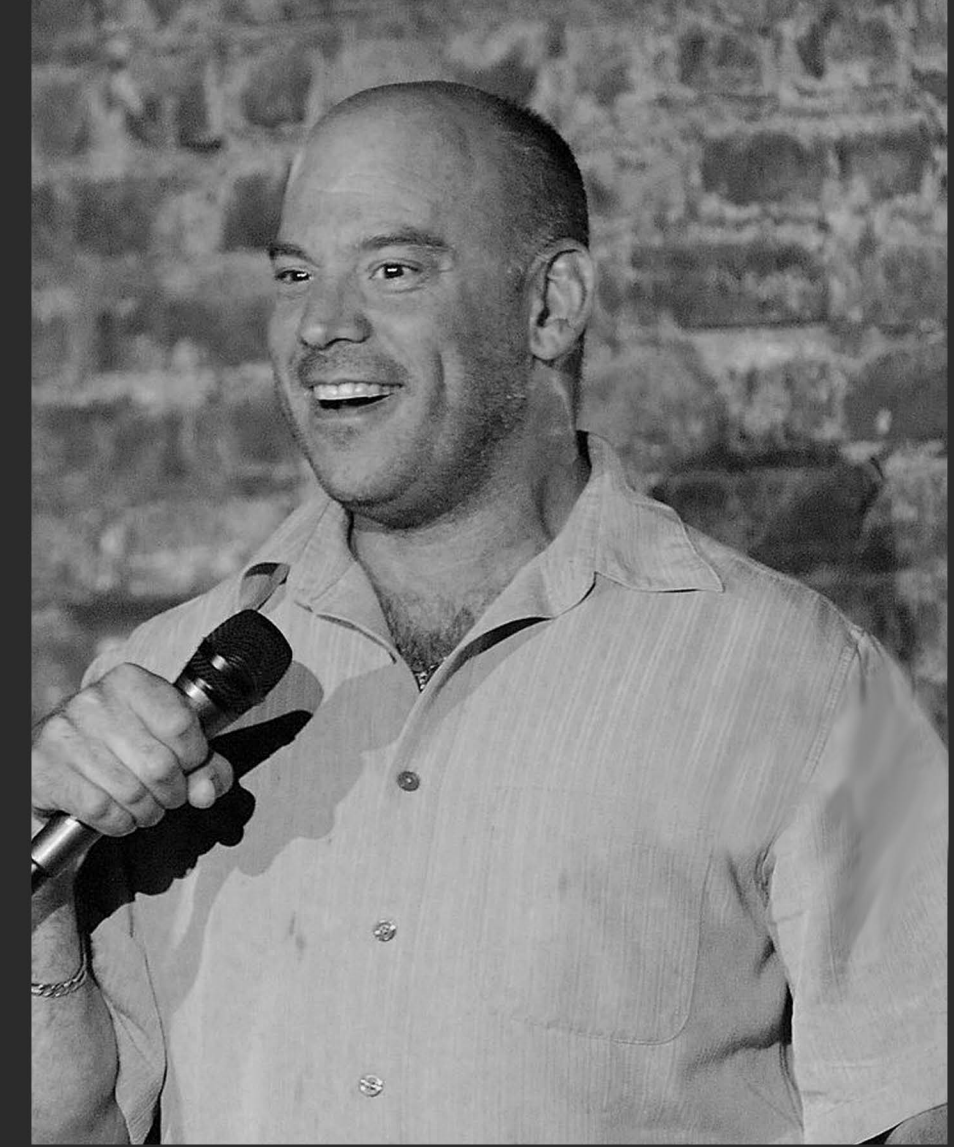
TOBIAS FORREST as *Mac*

"Toby" is a wheelchair-bound actor whose credits include, "The Sessions," "Queen Sugar," and "Weeds." As a voice over artist, he has worked on "Modern Family," "Halo: Fall of Reach," and more. His band, Cityzen, won the "Hard Rock Rising LA Award," and plays venues and fundraisers across the country. Their song, "Invisible Man," is featured in SPECIAL UNIT. Opportunities for performers with disabilities are rare, and Toby hopes to encourage others to live their dreams, despite their difficulties or differences.



DEBBIE LEE CARRINGTON as *Sophie*

Debbie has made the most out of her career, and has made her height a strength. Her credits include "Total Recall," "Men in Black," and "Star Wars: Return of the Jedi." She currently lives in Los Angeles, fulfilling her dream of being a respected actor. After playing Sophie in the original SPECIAL UNIT pilot, director Christopher Titus knew that he had to have her back to play the feisty detective with a big shotgun. Debbie hopes to inspire other actors with disabilities to dream large and work hard.



MICHAEL ARONIN as *Morgan*

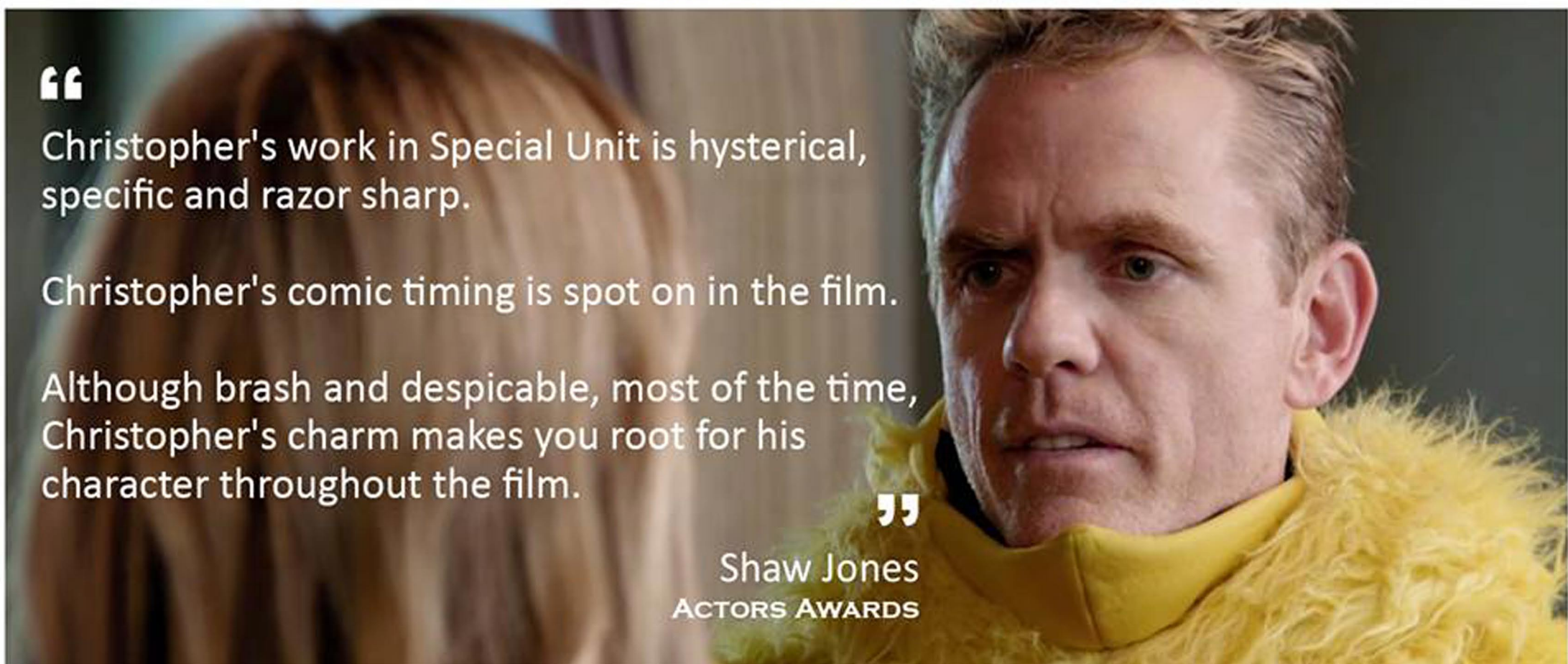
Michael is a nationally acclaimed speaker who teaches his audiences how to get past personal shortcomings, and move forward in their careers. His goal is to enlighten and entertain from his perspective of being born with cerebral palsy (CP). He feels fortunate that he was born with CP, seeing it as an opportunity rather than a disability. Michael is clear that he is speaking for himself, and not on behalf of anyone else with a disability. Michael's admiration, trust, and friendship for Christopher Titus drew him to Special Unit. He says he knew Titus would "do this the right way," and he was right.



BEST ACTOR

CHRISTOPHER TITUS

"SPECIAL UNIT"



“

Christopher's work in Special Unit is hysterical, specific and razor sharp.

Christopher's comic timing is spot on in the film.

Although brash and despicable, most of the time, Christopher's charm makes you root for his character throughout the film.

”

Shaw Jones
ACTORS AWARDS

FilmFreeway

TheActorsAwards.com

magic



LOS ANGELES FILM AWARDS WINNER

BEST COMEDY FEATURE

PRESENTED TO

SPECIAL UNIT

CHRISTOPHER TITUS

IN RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE IN FILMMAKING
AT THE LOS ANGELES FILM AWARDS



Nami Melumad
CO-DIRECTOR

Julia Parker
JURY PRESIDENT

Les Brandt
LEAD JUDGE

April 3rd, 2017
DATE

FilmFreeway · LAFILMAWARDS.NET · magic

PRODUCTION STILLS





COMBUSTION FILMS

FESTIVALS

Ryan Farmer

RyanFarmerCWI@gmail.com



@SpecialUnitFilm