

NABIL RAJO

JAHMIL FRENCH

WITH FANNY MALETTE

AND NTARE GUMA MBAHO MWINE



IF THE COPS DON'T GET YOU  
YOUR FRIENDS WILL.

# BOOST

A DARREN CURTIS FILM

FILMOPTION PRESENTS A BUNBURY FILMS AND HAVELOCK FILMS PRODUCTION "BOOST" NABIL RAJO, JAHMIL FRENCH WITH FANNY MALETTE AND NTARE GUMA MBAHO MWINE  
 CASTING BY JONATHAN OLIVEIRA C.S.A. MONTREAL CASTING BY MAXIME GIROUX ART DIRECTOR FRÉDÉRIQUE COURNOYER-LESSARD CINEMATOGRAPHER PAWEŁ POGORZELSKI EDITOR JARED CURTIS  
 MUSIC BY MICHAEL SILVER ORIGINAL SONGS BY THE POSTERZ LINE PRODUCER VALERIE SHAMASH EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOHN HAZLETT ANTONELLO COZZOLINO PAUL-E. AUDET  
 PRODUCED BY FREDERIC BOHBT, KIERAN CRILLY & DARREN CURTIS WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DARREN CURTIS

B7  
BUNBURY FILMS

HAVELOCK  
Films

TELEFILM  
CANADA

Québec

Canada

Filmoption  
International



Running time: 93 min

Aspect: 1 :2.35

Sound: 5.1

Format: DCP/HDCam/Bluray

Genre: Drama

Country: Canada

Copyright Year: 2016

Language: English

Copyright line: © 2016 9268-4000 Quebec Inc



Filmoption  
International





## ***Synopsis***

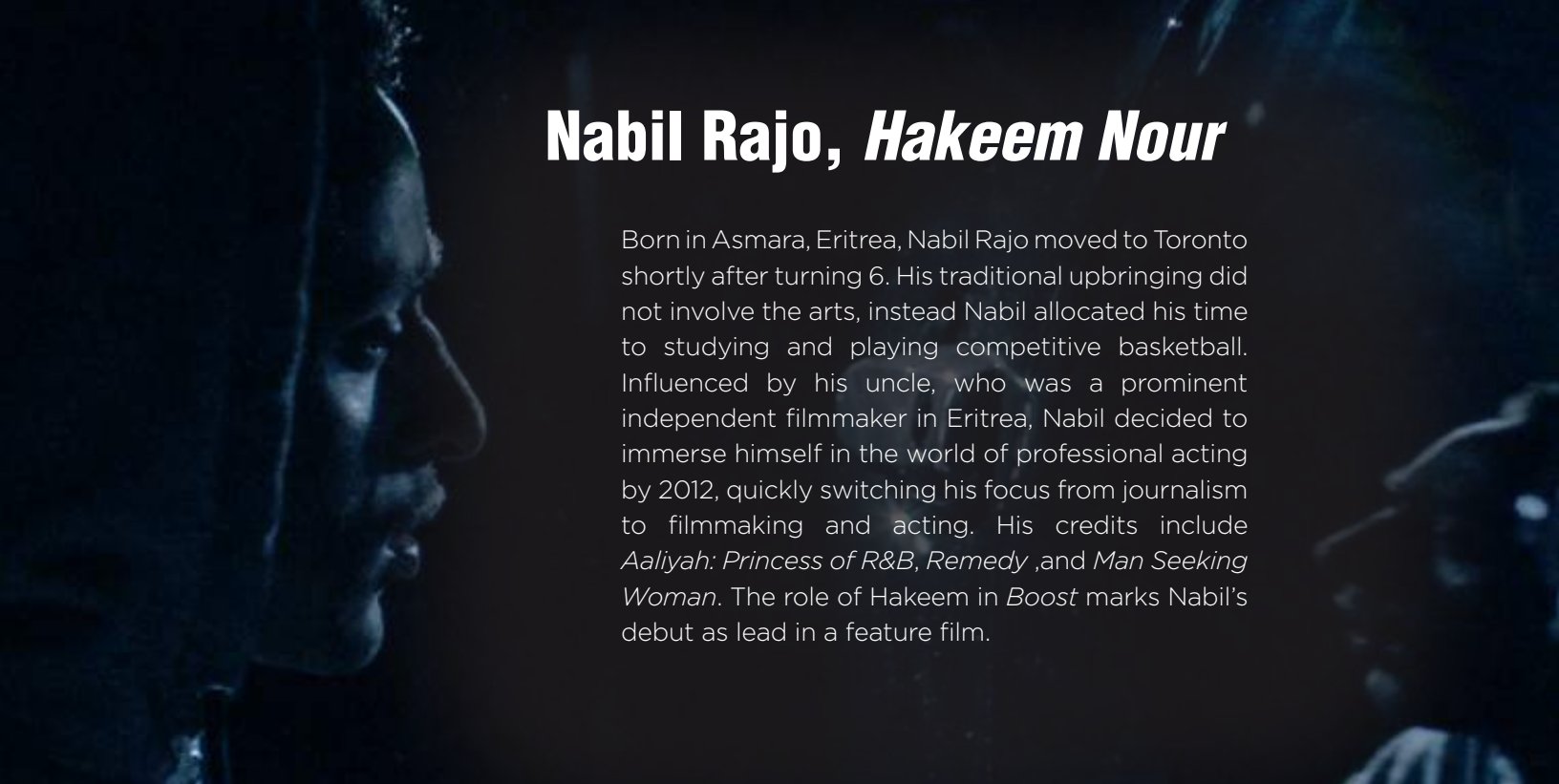
Hakeem is the teenage son of east African immigrant parents living in Montreal's tough Parc-Ex neighbourhood. Along with his best friend Anthony 'A-Mac' McDonald, the two work at Hakeem's uncle's car wash 'spotting' luxury sports cars for a local crime syndicate to make extra money. A-Mac eventually persuades Hakeem to boost a car on their own leading to a windfall of cash that has dire consequences down the road - forcing Hakeem to make a life altering decision and define the type of man he will become.





## Nabil Rajo, *Hakeem Nour*

Born in Asmara, Eritrea, Nabil Rajo moved to Toronto shortly after turning 6. His traditional upbringing did not involve the arts, instead Nabil allocated his time to studying and playing competitive basketball. Influenced by his uncle, who was a prominent independent filmmaker in Eritrea, Nabil decided to immerse himself in the world of professional acting by 2012, quickly switching his focus from journalism to filmmaking and acting. His credits include *Aaliyah: Princess of R&B*, *Remedy*, and *Man Seeking Woman*. The role of Hakeem in *Boost* marks Nabil's debut as lead in a feature film.





## **Jahmil French, Anthony 'A-Mac' Macdonald**

Born in Toronto, Jahmil discovered acting at Wexford School for the Arts, where he studied in the Musical Theatre, Intensive Dance and Drama Focus programs. He made his television debut in early 2009 as a guest star on *Flashpoint*, for which he received a Young Artist Award and a Canadian Screen Award nomination. He went on to join the lead cast of Canadian hit series *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, and currently stars in the A&E dramatic pilot *The Infamous*. Beyond acting, Jahmil is a hip hop dancer and member of the well known Canadian dance crew The MoonRunners as Funk Master French! Jahmil is also known for his work in spoken word poetry.



# Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine, *Ramaz 'Ram'*

Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine, born in New Hampshire and a dual citizen of Uganda, received his MFA in Acting from New York University and completed studies at The Moscow Arts Theatre in Russia, The Royal National Theatre in London and The University of Virginia. Ntare is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Southern California (USC). He has also taught at Yale University and has taught theatre and film artists in more than a dozen countries in Africa.

His feature film acting credits include the upcoming *Queen of Katwe* where he plays opposite Oscar winner Lupita Nyong'o and *Boost* from Oscar winning producers Kieran Crilly and Frederic Bohbot. His previous feature films include *Blood Diamond* where he played opposite Oscar winner Leonardo DiCaprio and the indie feature *40*, which Ntare starred in and premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival.

His television acting credits include recurring roles on the Steven Soderbergh series *The Knick*, HBO's series *Treme*, Amazon's series *Bosch*, *Heroes*, *The Riches*, *ER* and *CSI* to name a few.



Ntare's first effort as a playwright was *Biro*, a multi-media solo performance piece, which held its World Premiere at Uganda's National Theatre and subsequently premiered in London, then in New York at The Joseph Papp Public Theatre where it made the «New York Times critics pick list.» The production also premiered in Los Angeles, Seattle, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Toronto. His second multi-media solo piece «A Missionary Position» held its World Premiere at RedCat Theatre in Los Angeles. Ntare's other theater acting credits include leading roles at The Steppenwolf Theatre, The Kennedy Center, The Lincoln Center, ACT, The Long Wharf Theatre and the National Tour of *Six Degrees of Separation* for which he received an NAACP Image Award nomination for Best Actor.

Ntare's film directing credits include *Kuhani*, which won the main prize for Best Achievement in Directing at the International Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, Switzerland and was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize for Best Short Film at Slamdance 2014. *Kuhani* also premiered at the International Film Festival Rotterdam, Palm Springs International ShortFest, the Institute of Contemporary Art London and the Film Society at Lincoln Center to name a few. His feature length documentary *Beware of Time*, won Best film on matters relating to Marginalized People at the Berlin Black International Cinema Festival.



## Fanny Mallette, Madame Tessier

Fanny Mallette has been working nonstop since graduating from the National Theatre School in 1998. She has appeared in many plays including *Dom Juan*, directed by Martine Beaulne, and *Danser à Lughnasa*, directed by Ben Barnes. She portrayed Stéphanie in *Cheech ou les hommes de Chrysler sont en ville*, created for theatre by François Létourneau, and took on that same role in the film version of the play, which earned her a Jutra Award in 2007 for Best Supporting Actress. She returned to the stage more recently in *Oreille, tigre et bruit*, by Alexis Martin and in *Jeux Doubles*, by Jacinthe Potvin, presented at the Théâtre du Bic.

Fanny has become a recognizable face, acting in more than 15 highly successful productions such as *Scoop*, *Alys*, *Graffiti*, *Tag*, *Ces enfants d'ailleurs*, *Asbestos*, *Grande Ourse* (for which performance she received the 2006 Gémeaux Award for Best Actress in a dramatic role) and *Nos étés*. She also has appeared in *19-2*, *30 Vies* and *O'*, and she landed the lead role in Patrice Sauvé's series *Vertige*. Her latest part in the series *Mensonges*, earned her a Gémeaux Award for Best Actress in a comedy drama.

Versatile to a fault, Fanny has embraced different characters and cinematic genres in a number of movies: *Une jeune fille à la fenêtre*, by Francis Leclerc, *La femme qui boit*, by Bernard Émond, *Gaz bar Blues*, by Louis Bélanger, *Dans une galaxie près de chez vous*, by Claude Desrosiers, *Les muses orphelines*, directed by Robert Favreau, *Cheech*, by Patrice Sauvé and *Continental, un film sans fusil*, by Stéphane Lafleur, for which she received a Genie Award nomination for her supporting role. In 2008, she was lauded for her work in Louis Choquette's *La ligne brisée* and collaborated again with Patrice Sauvé on *Grande Ourse: le film*. Fanny later stood out in *Les 7 jours du Talion*, by Podz, *En terrain connu*, by Stéphane Lafleur and *Roche Papier Ciseaux*, by Yann Lanouette-Turgeon, and most recently in *Arwad*, by Samer Najari.





## Patrick Goyette, Detective Belanger

Patrick Goyette studied at the Conservatoire d'Art Dramatique in 1990

In theater, he has worked with many great directors, including René-Richard Cyr, Claude Poissant, Martine Beaulne and around the world with Robert Lepage (*Les Sept branches de la Rivière Ota*), Guillermo de Andrea with René-Daniel Dubois (*Being at home with Claude*) at Espace Go also with Robert Bellefeuille (*Jouliks*), and also with André Melançon (*La promesse de l'Aube*).

In film, we have seen him in many feature films: *Coyote*, *Four Days* and *La cicatrice*. We will remember his performance in the extraordinary film *Le Confessionnal* and *Le Polygraphe* by Robert Lepage. He was part of the distribution of *Daniel and the Superdogs*, film by André Melançon. He was also the leading role in *Lost song*, Rodrigue Jean's latest film.

In television, he was part of the unforgettable serie *Les Filles de Caleb*, and many other projects including *L'Amour avec un Grand A*, *Shehaweh*, *Les enfants d'Ailleurs*, *Paparazzi*, *Simone Chartrand*, *Tag* and *Mon Meilleur ennemi*, *Toute la vérité* and *Les Rescapés*. He played in *Les Hauts et les Bas de Sophie Paquin*, *La Promesse*, *Tactik*. More recently he was part of the production in *Lance et Compte*, *30 vies*, *O'* and *Blue Moon*.

Patrick Goyette is also interested in writing and producing. He wrote and directed the short film *J'te laisserai pas tomber* which was nominated for a Jutra Award for best short film in 2005. He recently worked on the script and the realization of *Faits Divers*, another short Film, which was seen at Short films Festival at Trouville in France.





# Darren Curtis

Darren Curtis was born and raised in Montreal, graduating from Communication Studies at Concordia University. Since then, he co-founded the comedy group, Kidnapper Films - writing, directing and producing over 25 short films which have played festivals from all over the world including Austin, Just for Laughs and Fantasia. He moved onto features with the cult comedy hit *Who is KK Downey?* which he co-directed and co-wrote. The film won the New Visions award at Cinequest and the Audience Award at BUFF as well as screening at over 15 international festivals. Darren also runs a successful commercial photo and video business called Actaeon Photo whose clients include L'Oreal to YSL and Armani. *Boost* is Darren's first film working within the dramatic/thriller genre as well as his first time directing and writing on his own.



## Director's Vision

Growing up in Montréal, I always wanted to tell stories about my city; to show audiences parts of Montreal they might not have known even existed. I attended Wagar high school in the early 90's and I felt it was a fantastic setting to showcase Montréal's rich cultural diversity. There was always a sense of constant tension among the students caused by differences in their religion, culture and language, which created an atmosphere I wanted to see portrayed in an authentic film about growing up in Montréal. I felt the story of two young car thieves from Montréal's Park-Extension neighborhood would be an excellent entry point into a tense drama about making the journey from adolescence into manhood. Considering that everyone experiences this transformative time in their lives, I believe these coming of age stories tap into a very primal narrative for audience members. Even though the location and cultures vary from story to story, the core narrative of *Boost* transcends those elements to create a relatable and strong emotional tale - which I believe makes for a great film.



## Frederic Bohbot, Producer

Executive Producer of the 2014 Academy Award winning short documentary *The Lady in Number 6*, Frederic Bohbot founded Bunbury Films in 2002 as an independent producer/director intending only to make one film: *Once a Nazi...* - 2006 (Canal D, PBS, Noga). On the back of the critical success of *Once a Nazi...* Frederic expanded Bunbury's production slate - producing a number of documentaries including: *Bigfoot's Reflection* - 2007 (Space), *Leaving the Fold* - 2008 (SRC, ABC, YLE, Documentary, Canal +, TV5 Monde, RTBF) *Burning Water* - 2010 (CBC), *Land of Destiny* - 2010 (Documentary, PBS), *Underdog Plaza* - 2011 (OMNI, PBS), *Triumph of the Wall* - 2012 (Superchannel, Theatrical) *My Brothers Vows* - 2013 (ARTE), *The Lady in No. 6* - 2013 (Oscar™ Winner!). In 2015 Frederic produced *Underdog Rises* for OMNI, and *Vie de Chateau* for Radio Canada. 2016 will see the completion of *Shadows of Paradise* a theatrical feature documentary by Sebastian Lange for Superchannel, Documentary and Astral as well as Bunbury's first feature fiction entitled *Boost*.

## Kieran Crilly, Producer

Kieran Crilly is the co-producer of 2014 Academy Award winning short documentary *The Lady in Number 6*. He started producing with over 30 shorts as part of Montreal-based Kidnapper Films. Kieran's first feature, *Who Is KK Downey?* won the New Visions award at Cinequest and the Audience Award at BUFF and went on to screen in more than 30 festivals around the world before returning to Canada to earn nominations for Jutra and Genie Awards. Since then Kieran co-produced the romantic comedy *Three Night Stand* starring Sam Huntington and Emmanuelle Chriqui, music videos for artists such as Cypress Hill and Wolf + Lamb, and commercials for such brands as McDonald's, Mazda, Ubisoft and Electronic Arts. After founding Havelock Films in 2015, Kieran produced the crime thriller *Boost* starring Nabil Rajo, Jahmil French, Ntare Mwine, and Fanny Mallette. *Boost* was financed by Canada's national funding agency, Telefilm and the Quebec provincial funding agency SODEC. Kieran's next projects include the 90's period slasher *La Cabane a sucre*, teen pothead comedy *Flop House*, and spy action-comedy *Geek & Destroy*.



## Jared Curtis, Editor

Jared began editing as part of the Montreal comedy collective Kidnapper Films in 2005, cutting over 20 short films and music videos. Jared has also worked in the editorial and VFX departments on notable Canadian features *Fubar 2*, *Goon* and *Pawn Sacrifice*. Jared's credits as film editor include the independent features *Who is KK Downey?*, *Peepers*, and *Three Night Stand*. *Boost* is the fourth feature film edited by Jared Curtis and his first venture into the thriller genre.



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