

DORIAN
MISSICK

MICHAEL
BEACH

SIMONE
MISSICK

TAMARA
TAYLOR

CREE
SUMMER

A COLD HARD TRUTH



TRUST IS A DANGEROUS GAME.

**A Cold,
Hard
Truth.**

CONTENTS

- I. LOGLINE/SYNOPSIS
- II. DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT
- III. PLOT OUTLINE
- IV. CAST
- V. BEHIND THE SCENES
- VI. CINE STILLS
- VII. DIRECTOR'S BIO
- VIII. PRODUCER'S BIO
- IX. CREDITS
- X. CONTACTS

LOG LINE

To avenge his cousin's suicide, a disgraced journalist with a tarnished past must confront his demons in order to exact revenge on those responsible for his cousin's downward spiral.



SYNOPSIS

After his cousin Lanie (Simone Missick) commits suicide due to cyber-bullying, journalist Stewart Cooper (Dorian Missick) investigates the series of events surrounding her death and begins to unravel a web of shaming, lies and dark secrets that lead all the way to the community pastor. Driven by his own emotional turmoil, he uses social media to exact revenge on the people he feels are responsible for his cousin's suicide.





DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The impetus for *A Cold, Hard Truth* was my affection for journalism movies. I was watching *All The President's Men*, and I thought, wait a minute - where are the movies about Black journalists? A movie that had nothing to do with race, just a movie about a Black journalist moving through life. I love journalists' movies because they are as close as you can get to being a detective without having your character be a detective.

Right now, we are at a very interesting moment in journalistic history because journalism, in the form of traditional newspapers and magazines, is disappearing, and blogs, vlogs, and other social media platforms are becoming the new and often more powerful sources of journalism. It is this kind of journalism that I wanted to explore in *A Cold, Hard Truth*. This new world of journalism in which two-hundred and forty characters and a thousand Twitter voices can put people into very dark spaces where lives hang in the balance. I started thinking about how a journalist would respond to the call of social media, and out of that the story of Stewart Cooper, a journalist driven by his emotional turmoil seeking revenge on those who he believes are responsible for his cousin's death, was born.

PLOT OUTLINE

A COLD, HARD TRUTH

A Cold, Hard Truth opens with Stewart Cooper, a recently fired journalist, having a very tense heart-to-heart with his best friend/cousin Lanie. An angry, unforgiving, social media post by her ex-boyfriend, Mark, has led her to admitting to Stewart that she had an affair with Reverend Kenneth Little, her pastor. The affair has led Kenneth's assistant pastor, Martin Jarrett, to push Lanie away from the church, after discovering she was pregnant with Little's child. Lanie finds herself on the outside, scorned not only by Little, but other members of the church and people who've seen her ex's social media post. Distraught, she asks Stewart to help her. Can he write an article about being shamed? Can he ask any of his journo friends to write anything about the church pushing her away? Stewart tells her since he's been fired from his job, he's no longer in the position to ask for favors from anyone at his newspaper.

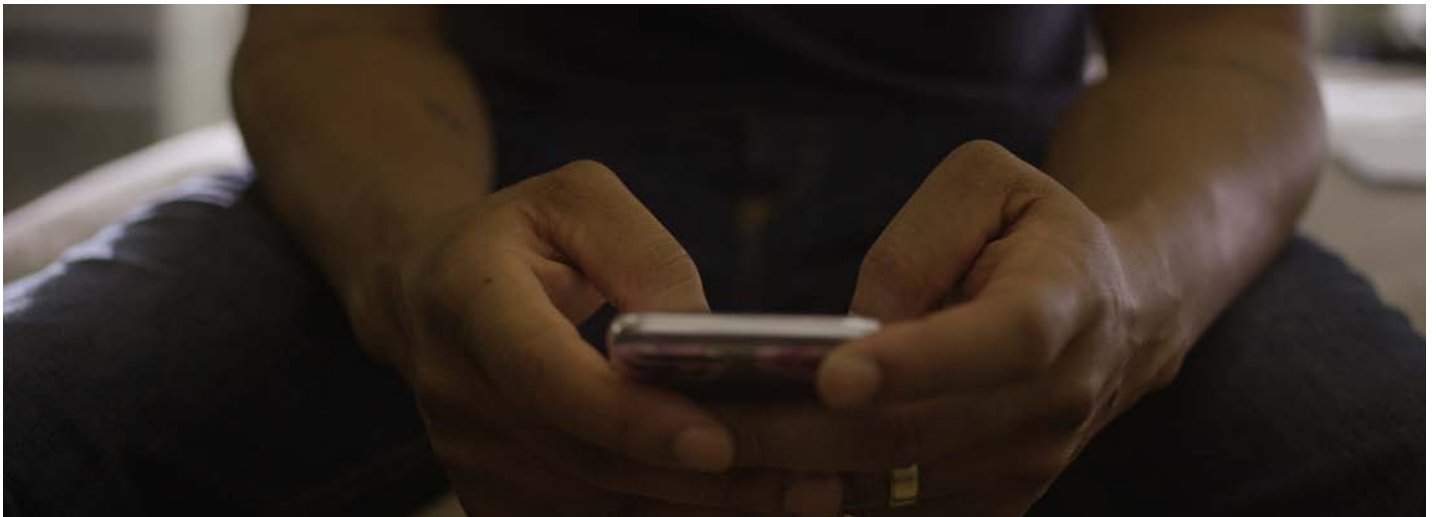
Caught in his own personal, emotional storm with his ex-wife, Stewart suggests his cousin ignore the people attacking her because social media eventually moves on and forgets whoever the "victim-of-the-day" is. Lanie's not able to process his commonsense guidance because her fragility is at its breaking point. She leaves Stewart, soul crushed, irreparably damaged. Knowing he's let his cousin down, Stewart thinks the best thing he can do is drown himself in a drink to push away the pain consuming him.

The next morning, a hung-over Stewart heads to Lanie's to offer some hope and upon arrival finds her dead. She's taken her own life. However, before killing herself, Lanie left Stewart her phone, the code, and an article he wrote in college about telling the truth at all costs. Even from beyond, she wants her cousin to stand up for her.

Stewart calls the police to the house but chooses to keep the article and phone. The next day, he goes to Lanie's dad's house to discuss Lanie's choices and how she was wronged by her ex and the pastor. A surprise visit by Mark, the ex, leads to Stewart unleashing his anger with a strong hook to Mark's jaw. Stewart leaves, but his anger still needs to be channeled somewhere – so he puts it into a scheme that will pit Mark against the Pastor.

PLOT OUTLINE

Using Lanie's phone, Stewart begins sending messages to Pastor Little questioning him as a pastor and a human being. Post after post, he reminds this man of God how he minimized Lanie's existence. These posts cause the pastor to unravel, wondering where these texts from a "dead woman's ghost" are coming from. The texts also begin to pull apart his shady marriage. Katrina Little has seen all and been a part of many of the illicit things Pastor Little has done. As long as she remains "The First Lady", she's willing to accept anything. But as her husband begins to get exposed, she worries that this exposure will reveal Pastor Little's connection to a drug dealer who's laundering money, through the church, to the public. Taking charge of this spiraling debacle, she (and the Pastor) send Jarrett out to discover who's behind all of this, especially after one of the texts seem to come from Lanie's ex-boyfriend's apartment building. This all leads to a confrontation between the ex-boyfriend and the Assistant Pastor.



When Stewart learns of the confrontation, he begins pushing harder through texts, social media messages, and even visits to other women with whom Pastor Little has had affairs. Playing too close to the fire, Stewart is visited by Jarrett, who warns him he'll do anything to protect Little and hurt anyone. Stewart accepts that challenge and eventually pushes everyone to the brink. When Stewart suggests to Jarrett that the police would have figured out who sent the messages by this point, he knows that will activate Jarrett to do his own investigation, sending him back to the ex-boyfriend, and resulting in one last disastrous meeting. In the aftermath of an unintentional death, Stewart sits back and watches Pastor Little's deceptions against his flock come to light, and takes some solace in knowing that his cousin did not die in vain.

IV.

CAST



DORIAN MISSICK

Dorian gained recognition when he starred in the critically acclaimed TNT series *Southland*. Dorian stayed in the John Wells' family with a heavily recurring role in *Animal Kingdom*. He currently appears on the ABC hit drama *For Life*. Other recent roles include a series regular on *Tell Me A Story*, *Zoe Ever After*, *The Cape* and Marvel's *Luke Cage*. Dorian's recent film work includes *Jinn*, *Annie*, *Deliver Us From Evil* and *Big Words*. Prior to those projects, Dorian starred in the NAACP nominated *Mooz-lum* as well as *Two Weeks' Notice*, *The Manchurian Candidate* and starred opposite Zoe Saldana in the indie classic *Premium*.

SIMONE MISSICK

A 2020 NAACP Best Actress nominee, Simone headlines the new CBS series, *All Rise*, and can be seen on *Altered Carbon* on Netflix. She has been working in film, theater, and television with credits on Marvel's *Luke Cage*, *Iron Fist*, and the independent feature *Jinn*. Outside of television and film, Simone's impeccable theater work includes Dominique Morisseau's *Paradise Blue* which earned her the 2019 World Theater Award. She also starred in *The Road Weeps* and *The Well Runs Dry*, which earned her an NAACP Theater Award nomination for Best Supporting Actress in 2014.





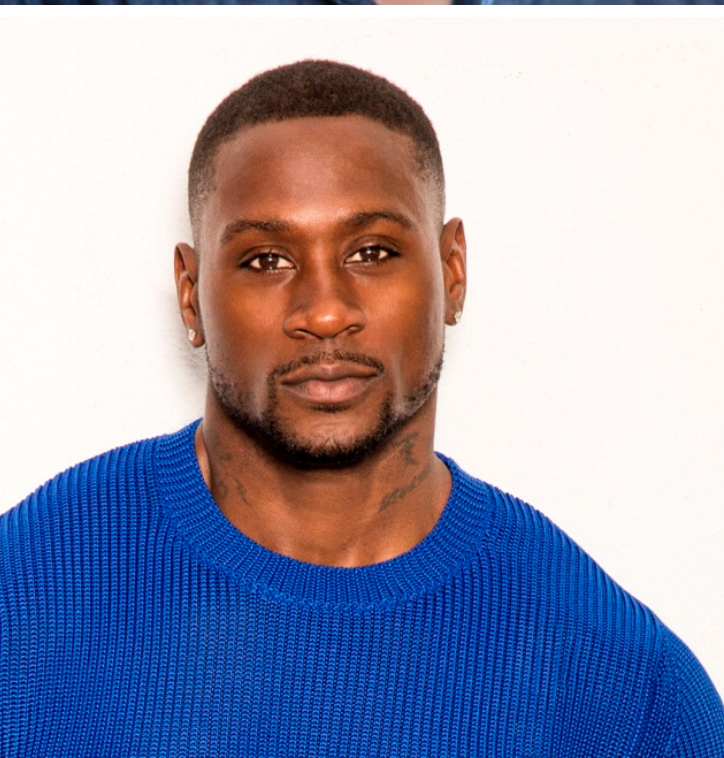
MICHAEL BEACH

Michael is an alumnus of the prestigious Julliard School of Drama and has been working in the entertainment field for over three decades. Michael has been featured in over fifty films including *If Beale Street Could Talk*, *Lean On Me*, *Sparkle*, *Things Never Said* and myriad television shows such as *ER*, *Sons of Anarchy*, *Stargate: Atlantis*, and *Third Watch*.



TERRELL TILFORD

Terrell is a classically trained actor who has performed in film, stage, and television. Terrell has starred in the award-winning play *Take Me Out* at the Geffen Playhouse, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*, and such television series as *One Life to Live*, *The Protector*, *Single Ladies*, *CSI*, *Switched at Birth*, and *Days of Our Lives*. In 2010, Terrell was nominated for an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actor in a Daytime Drama Series.



THOMAS Q. JONES

Thomas, a former running back in the NFL, is a captivating force on and off the field. A rising star in film and television, Jones has headlined the independent films, *Runaway Island* and *A Violet Man*, and starred in Marvel's *Luke Cage*, *P-Valley*, *All American*, and *Being Mary Jane*.



KEVIN PHILLIPS

Kevin is best known for his leading role in *Pride*, as well as his roles in *Roxanne Roxanne* and *Notorious*. Kevin also captured the attention of George Lucas and was cast as a leading role in the film *Red Tails*.



VICTORIA PLATT

Victoria's penchant for acting began with her tenure at the High School of Performing Arts in New York City. She is an actress, singer, and producer who has lent her talents to a variety of films and television shows including, *The Cosby Show*, *All My Children*, *Days of Our Lives*, *9-1-1*, *NCIS: Los Angeles*, *NCIS: New Orleans*, and *Lucifer*.



SHANOLA HAMPTON

Shanola earned a degree in Theater, with an emphasis in Performance, from Winthrop University along with an MFA from the University of Illinois. She is known for her iconic role of Veronica on *Shameless*. Shanola played the lead role of Kalindra in *Things Never Said* and Deja in TV One's *Three's Complicated*. Her hope is to one day open a Performing Arts School.



MICHAEL KING

An Upstate New York native, Michael King attended college at RIT for Illustration. Shortly after moving to Los Angeles, he discovered his passion for acting. Michael has worked on *Sistas*, *The Stalking Fields*, *The Tarot*, *Stalker*, *CSI: NY*, *Dollhouse*, and numerous short films.



TAMARA TAYLOR

Tamara's career took off when she landed a series regular role on Fox's *Party of Five*. Since then she has appeared in *City of Angels*, *Hidden Hills*, *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*, *The L Word: Generation G*, *October Faction*, *Lost*, *Numb3rs*, *CSI: Miami*, *NCIS*, *Serenity*, and *Bones*. She made her film debut in the Wayans brothers' romantic comedy *Senseless* and starred in *Introducing Dorothy Dandridge* and the box office hit *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*.



CREE SUMMER

Cree is an actress and singer who has portrayed some of our most beloved characters, including the role of the iconic Freddie Brooks on *A Different World* and being the original voice of Penny for the cartoon *Inspector Gadget*. In addition, she has acted in *Better Things*, *Thundercats Roar*, *Star Wars: Detours*, and *BoJack Horseman*.



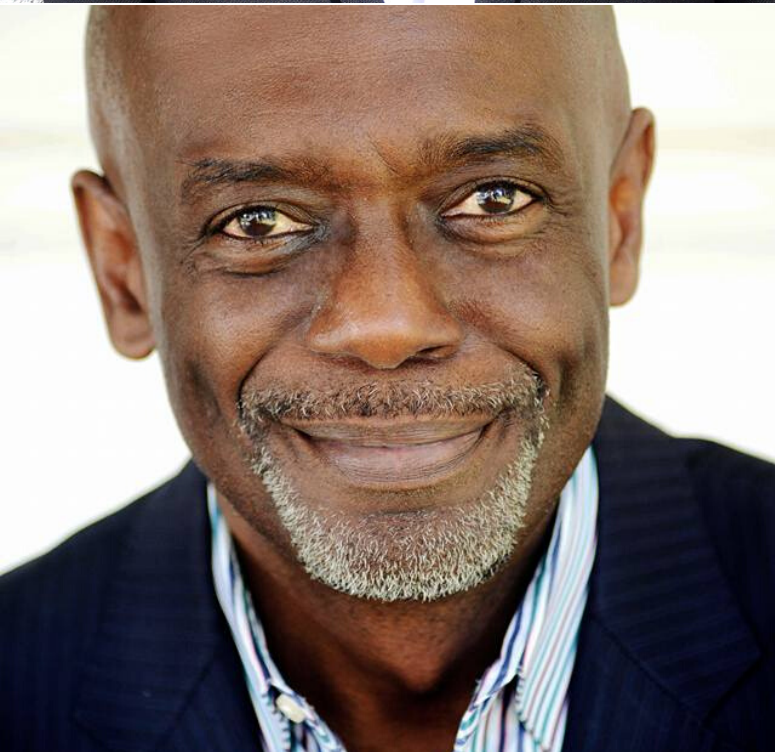
TOM WRIGHT

Tom is a thespian with over three decades of experience having worked across film and television, some of his credits include *Pursuit of Happiness*, *Contagion*, *Barbershop 2: Back in Business*, *Close to Home*, *Crash* and *Southland*.



ELIMU NELSON

Elimu has had a passion for fine arts since early childhood with a focus on acting. Elimu starred in the award-winning indie film *Things Never Said* and numerous television credits including *Modern Family*, *Castle*, *Hit the Floor*, *House of Lies*, and *Private Practice*.



CARL GILLARD

A Detroit native, Carl is a multi-hyphenate - a thespian, producer, and director. His film and television credits are numerous including *Inception*, *Red Eye*, *Coach Carter*, *House MD*, and *Grey's Anatomy*. On the theater front, Carl directed the NAACP award-winning *Peace Be Still* and has appeared on stage in *Ninth Wave*, *South of Where We Live*, *The River Niger*, *Waiting For The Rain*, and *Sweet Lucy's Love Lounge*.

V.

CINE STILLS



















VI.

BEHIND THE SCENES

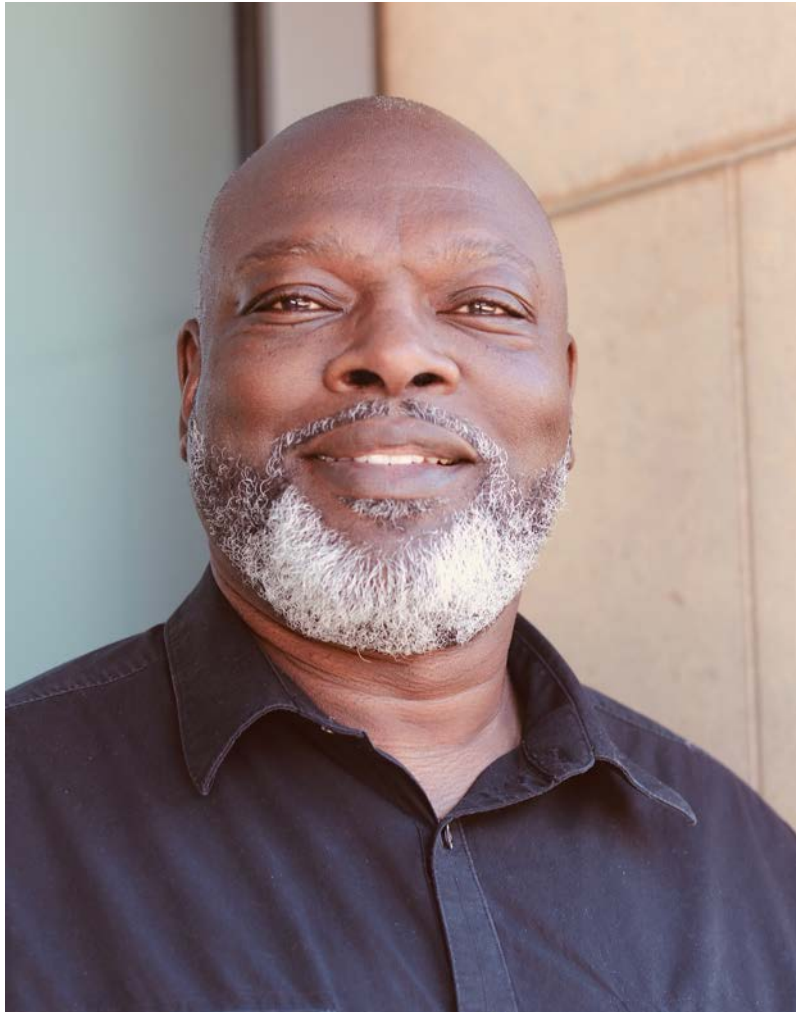












CHARLES MURRAY

Gary, Indiana native, Charles Murray is a film and television producer, writer, and director, who has had a 20-year career in the entertainment industry. He has directed episodic television and feature films: *A Cold, Hard Truth*, *Things Never Said*, and *The Summoning*. He has served as a writer and/or executive producer/producer on such hits as *Sons of Anarchy*, *Marvel's Luke Cage*, *Criminal Minds*, *V*, *Castle*, *Day Break*, *Star Wars: Clone Wars*, *Inhumans*, and the award-winning *Roots*.



JACKIE J. STONE

Jackie J. Stone is an award winning director/writer and producer. Stone has a penchant for delivering poetic and visually stunning work that has screened at numerous film festivals including the American Black Film Festival, Chicago International Film Festival, LA Film Festival and HBO Network among others. Jackie has produced short films, branded content, and feature films.

Director & Writer - Charles Murray

Cast

Stuart - Dorian Missick

Lanie - Simone Missick

Pastor Little - Michael Beach

Martin - Terril Tillford

Katrina - Shanola Hampton

Primo - Thomas Q. Jones

Stephanie - Cree Summer

Detective Ford - Elimu Nelson

Mark - Kevin Phillips

Liz - Tamara Taylor

Donald - Tom Wright

Janet - Victoria Platt

Key Creative Team

Executive Producers: Charles Murray,

Elan Murray, Amel Murray, & Ryan Hase

Producer & Line Producer: Jackie J. Stone

Co-Producer: Bailey Brown

Director of Photography: Ryan Hase

Production Design: Mark MacCauley

Costume Design: Tiffany Scott

Score: Chris Joyner

Sound Design: Dan Snow

Editor: Tammie Luciano