THAT KID PRODUCTIONS
AND
HANDEM PRODUCTIONS

A Film by
NNAEMEKA ANDREW MADUEKE

Take the Spotlight

Starring
ALLEN WARCHOL
MEGAN GLOVER
NENE NWOKO

With
LYNN WHITFIELD
GLENN MORSHOWER
CHINEDU “AKI” IKEDIEZE
DANIEL FOSTER
JOSE “J-SI” CHAVEZ

Winner, Best Filmmaker – 2014 Peachtree Village International Film Festival, Atlanta, GA
Official selection, 2014 Urban Mediamakers Film Festival, Norcross, GA
Official selection, 2014 Capital City Black Film Festival, Austin, TX
Official selection, 2014 Filmmaker’s Corner Film Festival, Little Rock, AR

125 minutes
Not yet Rated by MPAA
Camera: Shot on Canon 5D MKII and Red.

That Kid Productions LLC
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**Take the Spotlight**

**Synopsis**

“Take the Spotlight” is the fictional story of Artie Rain, a Dallas, Texas, film director who has been hired by two Dallas-based film producers to direct a movie about human trafficking. With their backing and funding for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, Artie embraces the challenge with maniacal zeal, compromising family, friends, and others involved in the film to fulfill his dream to *take the spotlight*. Unavoidable circumstances, both on the set and off, however, challenge Artie to compromise his approach, beliefs, and integrity.
Take the Spotlight

Q&A with writer and director Nnaemeka Andrew Madueke

What was your inspiration for the film?

My team and I had wanted to do something a little different from our previous films so as not to be in the same box all the time. We wanted to really challenge ourselves with this new direction while making sure that anyone who spared their precious time or money to watch our film would come away completely satisfied. You always want to make sure that people will appreciate your work enough to return the next time you make something new. Your work is your reputation in this regard. And as a writer, I don’t want to be restricted to the perimeter of telling stories with mostly a storyline and characters of the same ethnicity as myself even though that is my forte. I also believe that one could get complacent and comfortably mediocre by not challenging themselves to new levels.

How did the film get off the ground? What was the process of getting the film made?

Once the story was written, we went about putting the production team together. It was very important that the team shared and believed in the same vision. We defined each step necessary to get our goal accomplished. First we sorted out the finances. Then we focused on finalizing the script. To do that we got a reading together to feel out its weaknesses and strengths after which we re-wrote it based on the feedback from the reading. The next steps were to start getting the cast and crew together so the auditions began. It took three auditions before we finally got the people that we needed to begin the shoot.

How long was the shoot? Where did you shoot?

Well, majority of the shoot happened in about five months. This is because we worked mostly on Saturdays and Sundays. We shot all the scenes here in the DFW metroplex.
What is your favorite scene in the film?

My favorite scene would be anyone that includes the character “Roy” because every appearance of his provided great comic relief for the story.

What was the most difficult scene to shoot?

All the scenes in the class with several actors rehearsing for the movie inside the movie were difficult to shoot. This is because there were so many people and each one had something to say.

Describe the casting process and how you got Hollywood actors like Lynn Whitfield and Glenn Morshower in the film

To get these two to appear in the film took a while for my team and me to setup. You have to understand that these are people that have appeared in and given stellar performances in big budget Hollywood films. At this point in their careers, they were not going to appear in just any film. First the script had to be something good and meaningful for them to want to actually do it. As the writer, I had to challenge myself to come up with witty and interesting lines for them. Then we had to also have an extra bit of luck on our side. In the case of Glenn Morshower, one of our producers Daniel Foster who thought well of the script and who happened to have a friendship with Glenn was our luck. He made it happen for us. In the case of Miss Whitfield, I had met her at the 2012 African Movies Academy awards in Lagos Nigeria where our last film “Mystery of Birds” won an award in the category of “Best Film by an African living abroad”. I believe it was destined to be because I came to learn while corresponding with her after that meeting that she had seen our films, “The Okra Principle” and “Mystery of Birds”. That, coupled with the fact that I may have made a good first impression on her I think swayed her
to look our way.

On-set the movie “Take the Spotlight” with International Superstar, Chinedu Ikedieze

How was it working with the Hollywood professionals? Were you under any kind of pressure?

Of course I was under a lot of pressure. After the scripts were sent to them to read and determine if they would do it, I could not eat until I got their feedback. Obviously it was a good feedback or they would not have appeared in the film. As for being on set with them and directing them, it was quite an eye opening experience for me. They were so down to earth that all the feelings of intimidation and inadequacy that I had leading up to then disappeared. Everyone on set those days had so much fun because of that. One other thing that I’d like to point out is their excellence. Through them, I understood the glaring difference between a top professional and an entry-level professional. First they were on set before time. And then the energy that they brought with them was very positive, I mean, not even when we were taking a while to set-up shots did they betray any negative energy, go off to talk on the phone or do whatever it is that people do to kill time. They were rehearsing and perfecting their next lines. And when they felt that they did not give me their best, they would ask me if I wanted to do another take. Basically, they made my life very easy. Based on that experience, I know for sure that given the opportunity, they are the kind of personnel that I would love to work with going forward.

From the left, Amaechi Madueke, Iorna Handem, Lynn Whitfield and Nnaemeka Madueke

What camera did you shoot the film with?

Shot with the Canon 5D Mark II and Red.
Where have you screened the film and how has it been received?

The film has been screened at four different film festivals in the United States. The 2014 Peachtree Village International Film Festival in Atlanta, Georgia, the 2014 Urban Mediamakers Film Festival in Norcross, Georgia, the 2014 Filmmaker’s Corner Film Festival in Little Rock, Arkansas and the 2014 Capital City Black Film Festival in Austin, Texas.

The reception has been what we thought it would be, awesome. The film has a few strategically placed comical parts which work to lift the audience up from any dull moment if any that they might encounter while watching. In Austin, a couple of other filmmakers told us that it was their favorite and most entertaining of the ones that they watched in the festival. That really lifted us especially for the fact that the compliment came from other filmmakers. The film also won an award for “Best Filmmaker” at the 2014 Peachtree Village International Film Festival in Atlanta and that was also a huge lift for us.

The 2014 Peachtree Village International Film Festival’s trophy for “Best Filmmaker”
TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT

The Cast

Cast and Crew of “Take the Spotlight” at the 2014 Peachtree Village International Film Festival’s award win celebration at the Hyatt Regency in Dallas, Texas.

Allen Warchol

Allen Warchol was born in San Antonio but lived most of his life in Dallas, TX. He displayed an interest in acting towards the end of high school. He studied acting and went on a few auditions. After a brief start in acting he had to finish college and graduated with a degree in finance. After a few years of being in the workforce, he came back to acting full time and has since appeared in numerous commercials, films, and TV shows such as, Chase, Prison Break, Dallas, Lone Star, The Originals, Rake, and Revenge. Allen played the lead role of “Artie” an overzealous film director in the film "Take the Spotlight".

Megan Glover

Megan Glover was raised in Texas with 3 other siblings, the only child to pursue acting. At the age of 16 she began acting in the local theater, creating a foundation that would soon grow to a passion to develop more as an actor for film. At 19, Megan was cast in her first feature film, "Take the Spotlight", in which she played the role of “Arianna”, the wife of struggling film director Arty Rain, played by Allen Warchol. Since then she has continued to work and develop as an actor by working in other feature and short films, national and regional commercials, as well as guest star in CBS’s "Under the Dome" written by Stephen King. She currently lives in Dallas where she continues to work and progress her career. "My ultimate goal as an actress is not to land this gig or play this role. My goal is to effectively move an audience through my story and through my work. If I can do that, then I’ve succeeded."
Nene Nwoko

Nene Nwoko is a Nigerian born Actress, Singer, and Voiceover Artist. While in college, she participated in a stage play for the African Students Organization written and directed by Nnaemeka Madueke and fell in love with acting. Prior to that, she had only focused on singing and modeling. But being on that stage performing a play inspired her to pursue a professional career in acting. Thus far she has worked on films and TV shows and currently has two projects slated to shoot later this year. One of her films “Mystery of Birds” won The African Movie Academy Awards for Best Film by a Nigerian living abroad in 2012 and the “I Am More” film/Documentary by the T.O.R.I team in Dallas won 2014 Lone Star Emmy Awards. She played the lead in both projects. Nene played the role of “Nneka” whose casting as the lead role for the film that is being made by the director, “Artie” creates problems between the director and “George” the producer. Today, Nene continues to work in TV commercials and other venues of this industry as well. For more information on her work visit her IMDb page www.imdb.me/nenenwoko or her personal website www.nenenwoko.com.

Roy Nwakamma

Roy Nwakamma has appeared in other films written and directed by Nnaemeka Madueke but his role in “Take the Spotlight” is his first major role. Roy is a pharmacist but who loves films and acting. Given the opportunity to appear in a scene with Lynn Whitfield in the film “Take the Spotlight”, a scene in which he proposes to marry her has been like a dream – and he really took it, as his character in the movie would often say. He hopes to ride the wave of this role into more roles in many more films.

Elizabeth Dukes Melançon

Elizabeth Dukes Melançon made her professional debut at 16 as a principal dancer in her native city's production of "Viva! El Paso!" After a few years as an editorial model in Texas, NYC and Paris, she made the transition to acting in the early 1990s. Over the years, she has worked in theater and commercials as well industrial, short & feature films in various markets including Houston, Los Angeles and Dallas. She has been honored by the Dallas Screenwriters Association with the "Favorite Actress" award for three consecutive years. Elizabeth is represented in Texas by Linda McAlister Talent. "Take the Spotlight" is her second project with That Kid Productions. She plays the role of “Isis”, an acting coach in the film. (*thank you family for supporting me, agents for promoting me & acting coaches for pushing me!*)
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The Producers

Amaechi Felix Madueke
Amaechi was born in Enugu, Nigeria. He earned a Bachelor’s degree in Management Information Systems from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2001 and has since worked for various corporations in the DFW metropolis. Amaechi is the president of That Kid Productions which produced films like “The Okra Principle”, “Take the Spotlight” and “Mystery of Birds”.

Iorna Handem
Iorna Handem was born in Senegal. He earned a Bachelor’s degree in Biology with an emphasis in Genetics from the University of Texas at Arlington where he also played college soccer. He is a self-made entrepreneur, a licensed financial advisor and the CEO and owner of Tax Time LLC, a tax business in Las Colinas, Texas. Iorna speaks 6 different languages and loves acting and making movies. He has appeared in various independent movies so far - The business Man, Night to Fly, The Okra Principle and Take the Spotlight. He is also the founder and owner of Handem Productions, the principal partner of That Kid Productions LLC for the production the film “Take the Spotlight”.

Nnaemeka Andrew Madueke
Andrew attended the University of Texas at Arlington, Texas from 1995 to 1999 and graduated with a degree in Management Information Systems. He currently works as a software developer for a company in Fort Worth, Texas and uses his part-time to pursue his lifelong dream of receiving major accolades as a storyteller. “Take the Spotlight” is the fourth film that he has written and directed. His other works are “Night to Fly”, “The Okra Principle” and “Mystery of Birds” which won an award in the 2012 African Movies Academy awards in the category of “Best Film by an African living abroad”.

Allen Warchol
Allen Warchol was born in San Antonio but raised most his life in Dallas, TX. He displayed an interest in acting towards
the end of high school. He studied and went on a few auditions. After a brief starting he finished to studies in Finance and got his degree. After a few years of being in the workforce came back to acting full time and has since appeared in numerous commercials, films, and TV shows such as, Chase, Prison Break, Dallas, Lone Star, The Originals, Rake, and Revenge.

Daniel Foster
Daniel Foster is a writer, actor, and filmmaker. He has directed and produced two films in Texas and Los Angeles, as well as the critically acclaimed Southwestern premiere of Neil LaBute’s play, Autobahn. In addition to Take The Spotlight, he recently appeared in the feature film Occupy,Texas, with a cast that includes Gene Gallerano, Peri Gilpin, Lorelei Linklater, and Gail Cronauer. Daniel is also the director of Class Act Dallas, a collaborative training ensemble for professional and aspiring professional actors.

Chinedu Ikedieze
Chinedu Ikedieze was born 12 December 1977 in Bende, Abia State, Nigeria. He is a Nigerian actor. He is best known for playing alongside Osita Iheme in most movies after their breakthrough in the movie Aki na Ukwa. In 2007 Ikedieze received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the African Movie Academy Awards.
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The Cinematography

Edgar Rodriguez

At a young age Edgar was inspired by the creative work of his older brother. This helped him shape his vision of artwork through a wide range of mediums. From drawing, sculpting, painting, photography and filmmaking. As soon as his mother could afford to buy him a video camera at the age of 15, he began to fully embrace his greatest passion. He began shooting stop motion and on camera editing of short films using his Samsung handycam. Later on he took several media technology classes in high school and community college and then went on to attend the University of North Texas in Denton with a degree in film.

Edgar has been the director of photography for two feature films that have gone to festivals along with dozens of short films. He is currently a video producer/editor/director for a marketing company here in Dallas. He will continue to chase his dream of creating films with projects such as his "El Peso Hero" inspired short film titled "El Toro Pesado" that will be completed this year.

Clay Pacatte

Clay Pacatte first picked up a camera when he was ten years old and has been fascinated with them ever since. He grew up in Austin and after first studying photography in middle school, became enamored with video cameras and editing in high school. He went on to study at the University of North Texas, graduating in 2013 with a degree in Radio, Television & Film. He has shot features, docs, shorts, commercials, and music videos on both film and digital formats. He also loves dogs and cooking.
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The Music

Jesus Martinez and his ensemble during the live recording of the music for the film “Take the Spotlight”.

Jesus Martinez

Jesus J. Martinez is a 2011 graduate from the University of Texas at Arlington as a Music Education Major specializing in percussion. He went on to complete his Masters in Music Composition at Southern Methodist University. At SMU, he studied primarily with composer Dr. Robert Frank.

Jesus was commissioned to score the film, “Mystery of Birds,” which premiered May 2011 in Houston, TX. The film was selected to screen in late October 2011 at the Los Angeles Black Film Festival, hosted in California and in 2012 won the African Movie Academy Award for Best Film by an African Living Abroad. In April, Jesus was also awarded “Student of the Year” in the winds and percussion area, and the “Undergraduate Student of the Year” at the UTA Music Awards Ceremony. In the fall of 2011, Jesus completed and presented his 34-minute world premiere of “Threnody for 9/11 for Mixed Chamber Ensemble.” The premiere was a huge success that landed him publicity all across Texas including the South Texas paper: The Monitor, UTA: The Shorthorn, the Fort Worth Star Telegram and WFAA Channel 8 Dallas - Fort Worth News. In January 2012, Jesus was also recognized by the Texas State Legislature, who granted a resolution in his name for the composition. His film, “Take the Spotlight” (2013), has premiered at four film festivals in Texas, Arkansas and Georgia, winning awards for best film and best director. He collaborated on and premiered a work with the SMU Dance Studio called “American Dances” in 2013. Jesus is a recipient of the School of Meadows Artist Scholarship, and in August 2013, he was selected as the SMU Student Composer-in-Residence for the Irving Symphony Orchestra in Irving, TX. Jesus performed the commissioned piece, “Harmonic Tremor,” in February 2014. In the fall of 2014, Jesus collaborated in Dr. Michael Varner’s recent CD, Revelations, and played a part in the production and final cut process. He recently completed the film “All the Wrong Friends” in collaboration with Film Professor Mark Kerins.

Jesus is a member of TMEA, PAS, and ASCAP and is currently published by C. Alan Publications. Jesus is also on the Vic Firth educational staff and is strongly supported by Marimba One. Jesus is currently the percussion specialist for Sam Houston High School in Arlington, TX.
Miss Keke

Lyrics. Style. Image. Keke, also known as Kelechi Onwumere, is a 25 yr old female lyricist/vocalist/songwriter that encompasses all of these characteristics and more. With both of her parents being of Nigerian descent, Keke takes pride in her culture and continuously embraces it. Her diverse array of musical inheritance is beyond measure. Keke began her interest in music at the early age of five when she developed an interest in singing. Five years later, she expanded into the field of Rap which eventually spawned her love for Hip Hop. At the young age of 10, the fifth grader started writing rhymes to test her lyrical abilities. “I was really young so I just used to write down words that rhymed, and see which ones made sense” says the talented rapper. “From ages 10 -12, I was trying to perfect my writing skills. At ages 12-14, I wanted to master the art of freestyling, and from the ages of 14-16, I learned how to battle” says Keke. Keke released her first album entitled “The Story of a Freestyle Pro” in 2003 at the age of 15. The album carried the hit song “Freestyle Pro” which received radio spins on 89.3 KNON and 97.9 The Beat. When asked of the album, Keke replied, “I did not want to put out an album until I knew for sure that I was confident with my rap style and battling techniques”. Keke’s hit song “Freestyle Pro” won her talent shows, collaborations, street credibility, and the opportunity to make the introductory song to 97.9 The Beats “Da Show” hosted by radio personalities Headkrack, Supa K, and Keynote. In 2002, Keke competed in the Mesquite Battle of the Bands talent show, to which she was the only hip-hop act competing against nine alternative rock bands. She took home the first place cash prize consecutively for four years until they retired her from the competition. Through her participation in the Battle of the Bands, she received features in the Mesquite News and the Dallas Morning News. Keke had also been featured for eight weeks on 89.3’s Jam it or Damn it segment as well as 97.9 The Beat’s freestyle battle contest to which she was the 13-week retiree reigning champ. Both stations eventually retired her after numerous wins. In 2005, Keke released her mixtape “2 Hot 4 Cd” which helped her build a larger fan base in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Through this mixtape, she gained visibility in different states, and even received a feature in southern hip-hop magazine, Block2Block. Keke was also a performer at the 2005 Texas Summer Music Conference, one of the largest urban film, fashion and music conferences in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. Keke was recognized as Most Talented at her 2005 Mesquite High School prom, and received this award again at her college in 2006 through the University of Texas at Arlington’s Alpha Phi Alpha Collection of Brothers ceremony. In 2007, Keke released a mixtape titled “The Prototype” which received great feedback from consumers. The release included an extravagant release party that led to several newly created avenues. Having graduated in May 2009 with a Bachelors degree in Political Science and a minor in communications, Keke is back to execute her goals in the entertainment industry. With a 2009 appearance made on the Hot 16 segment of B.E.T.’s “The Deal,” Keke has shown the world that she is back to make her mark. In 2009, Keke released her highly anticipated mixtape titled “The Beginning of the Future,” Keke has gained a new fan base as well as a new love for music. In 2011, she released another hit single titled “1st Class Chick” which received incredible feedback and became a ladies anthem. After seeing the progression with the positivity in telling women to respect and love themselves, Keke began to isolate herself to determine her purpose. After experiencing an awakening sickness that occurred for several months, Miss Keke began to realize that she learned so much about herself. With the rush being emphasized on putting out her 2nd album, it was then halted. She decided long before that she would name her album “The Redemption,” but the meaning had not yet shown itself. As time passed, she realized that the music she was making in the past was good but that her true calling was to execute thought-provoking records and bridge the gap between contemporary music and the Lord. The Redemption, in this case, is her public outcry to God telling him that she has finally started understanding what he wants her to do and she is now ready to do it. “I call myself a New Breed of Chick because I know there is no one else in this world that is like me, and I am here for the greater good. I have been making music for approximately 15 years now so I am fully equipped. I am here to raise the bar and set the standards. I am a respectable, classy woman and those are who I speak for so now that voice must be heard.” Keke is trying to be a role model for the men, women, and children in the world. After 8 years of successfully giving up curse words, Miss Keke has raised the bar for herself & is currently setting the standards. “I don’t do a lot of things. I don’t curse, drink, smoke, & etc. and I am really taking the road less traveled” says Miss Keke. Miss Keke staggered with the album title and after overcoming her sickness deemed it “The Redemption: The Road Less Traveled.” “The whole development was so precise and eye opening that I knew it was God. I had heard from a friend that I was taking the road less traveled, then that exact same statement showed up while I was reading my daily devotionals. I just know God broke me down to build me up.” “The Redemption: The Road Less Traveled” has been created with such quality and purpose. Recording in the same recording studio as stars such as Paula Abdul, Kirk Franklin, Common, Erykah Badu, and etc., Miss
Keke has taken the quality of her music to the next level. With quality producers involved on the project, each record has its own specific sound. Ranging from Gospel, Hip Hop, R&B, Reggae, Pop, and etc., Miss Keke is slowly proving to the world that she will not be trapped in a box. She has released the second single from the project titled “Tragic” which is currently striking high numbers and building a huge buzz daily. Miss Keke released her album on June 26, 2012. The album release party occurred on June 24, 2012 to which several hundreds were sold in a packed house accompanied by a live performance with a prestigious band. Since then, album sales have widely increased digitally. “The feedback on this project has been overwhelmingly amazing. I did it. I feel great because my supporters understand the music the way I wrote and performed it. They get it.” says Keke. Since then, Keke has slowly been gaining lifetime supporters. She received her first feature and soundtrack placement on a summer 2013 film release featuring celebrity actress Lynn Whitfield titled “Take the Spotlight.” She has also received numerous radio play on several outlets with several huge opportunities in the works. “I can’t speak on it at the moment, but I have some amazing things in the works that I am amazingly grateful to God for. I just pray it all pans out and I am able to change lives for the better.” With the oversaturation of the entertainment industry, Keke hopes to set herself apart from other artists in general and create a new path strictly for her. What’s next for Keke? The possibilities are limitless. One thing she believes is, with God on her side, she has nowhere to go but up.