

CHICAGO 1919, THE FILM

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WGA #1903220

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Created by Seanne N. Murray, Esq.

Logline: Chicago's 1919 riots ignite a race against time as a grieving teen embarks on a high-stakes gang battle to protect his family and salvage a city teetering on the edge of annihilation after his best friend's murder.

Genre: Historical Action Docudrama

Format: Feature Film

Minimum Budget: \$15 Million

Target Audience: 18+, film lovers, history lovers

Themes: Transformation through trauma, loss of innocence, injustice, violence, survival, revenge, redemption, family, love

OVERVIEW

Teenage Robert Price chokes up on his bat for some baseball practice with his brother, John, and their friends. Their father, editor of the Chicago Defender, the most influential Black weekly newspaper, drums Corinthians 7:21 into their heads: “Are you a slave? Don’t let that worry you – but of course, if you get a chance to be free, take it.”

Racial tension hits an all-time high in Chicago when Eugene, a baseball prodigy and friend of the Price boys, is murdered in front of their eyes. Having accidentally drifted to the customary White side of the beach, Eugene is killed by stoning at the hands of beach goers. After the final death blow to Eugene’s head, the Price boys plead with nearby police officer Daley for justice. As mayhem ensues, Officer Daley attempts to arrest Robert. He gets away. The next boy, beat senseless with Daley’s billy club, is not so lucky.

This marks the beginning of 8 days of unmitigated pandemonium and carnage, factually, the most heinous destruction and butchery in history on the South Side of Chicago. Against their parents’ desperate pleas, the Price boys, and their friends, plunge into the bloodbath with Robert as their designated leader. In the face of unthinkable terror, armed with baseball bats, the boys fight for their lives, their neighborhood and their right to justice.



FULL SCRIPT AVAILABLE

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CONTROLLING IDEA



Chicago 1919 is about people undergoing transformation through dire circumstances.

Robert loses his best friend to racial violence, must protect his young brother from the same fate and must decide, in the midst of it all, who he is.

Unlike survival, change is certain.

In the end, Robert's decisions will impact many in the moment and in the future. In this way, Robert and John is about choice, human connection and legacy.

Chicago 1919 is a story for the heroes. The survivors. The lost souls.

It's a period piece for those who believe in the American dream in spite of history, past and present. It's for those who dare to question, transform and pursue a better future.

As a 9/11 survivor, Chicago 1919 is my way of reminding us that we can break free of trauma and evolve through it.

The experience of loss and temporary defeat is the fuel for compassion. The outcome is the opportunity, and/or obligation, to heal ourselves and others..

In the aftermath, survivors experience a newly defined individual wholeness and collective unity. I call it oneness and it is my hope that all can tune into it through storytelling and the magic of film.

MAIN CHARACTERS

Robert Price

late teens
male, African
American

An easy going young man confused and tortured by the demands put upon him by his parents. Like most teens he knows everything, but is truly naive, believing the world has changed despite his parents constant warnings about the real world.

John Price

early teens
male, African
American

A boisterous, rowdy, free spirit, prone to trouble. He's fearless and hates being the baby. Whatever Robert can do, he knows he can do better.

Reverend Price

30's-40's
male, African
American

A distinguished, wise respected man and pillar of the community. Despite what he's seen and experienced, he believes in the good of mankind...to an extent. He's vigorous when it comes to safeguarding his reputation and propelling his family.

Mrs. Price

30's-40's
female, African
American

A privileged, well educated, cultured and loving woman who provides the best for her family while constantly fearing for their lives and demanding perfection from her sons and her self, never capable of hitting that bar which she keeps raising it higher.

Officer Callahan

age 40's-50s
male, Irish

Hard working, American dream believing, immigrant who hates being lumped in with the Negroes. He savors his power as an officer of the people and sees it as his duty to keep the races apart at all costs and maintain order as he sees fit.

Santo

age 40's-50's
male, Italian

A seemingly feeble immigrant from Sicily. He fled from la Cosa Nostra, An evil lurks inside him that he goes through great lengths to hide.

TONE AND STYLE



The tone is bold, energetic, and sympathetic, gradually giving way to enlightenment and hope. The sounds reflect the jazz of the era with the directness and grit of hip hop.

COMPS

STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON

Budget: \$28 million
Domestic Box Office: \$201,634,991
Domestic Distributor: Universal
Release Year: 2015

GANGS OF NEW YORK

Budget: \$100 million
Worldwide Box Office: \$193,800,000
Domestic Distributor: Miramax Films
Release Year: 2002

THE BUTLER

Budget: \$30 million
Worldwide Box Office: \$176,598,908
Domestic Distributor: Weinstein Company
Release Year: 2013

KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON

Budget: \$200 million
Worldwide Box Office: UNKNOWN
Domestic Distributor: Apple and Paramount
Release Year: 2023

12 YEARS A SLAVE

Budget: \$20 million
Worldwide Box Office: \$187,733,202
Domestic Distributor: Fox Searchlight
Release Year: 2013

PRESS



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Rosanna Arquette To Star In Indie Drama 'Chicago 1919'


By *Amanda N'Duka*
September 12, 2019 2:23pm

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rollingout

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ENTERTAINMENT

Seanne Murray's 1st film has big names attached

ATTACHMENTS

Note that the DuSable Museum of African American History, the oldest independent African American museum in the United States and a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate is attached as the historical consultant.



Julie Dash
Director



Rosanna Arquette
Actor



Keith David
Actor



Hawthorne James
Actor



WRITERS



Seanne N. Murray, Esq.



Greg Lawson



Robb Edward Morris



NOTE FROM THE CREATOR

Survival stories are integral to our perception of America and its people, particularly given our melting pot status. We have seen them countless times: battles between warring countries, extreme mental and physical abuse by tyrants and other self-designated villains, and our most primal instinct to make it home.

However, tales of Black heroism and transformation outside of slavery often fade into the background of history books and Hollywood films in service of white centeredness.

I have chosen to focus this story on two young Black brothers in the upswell of Black excellence and immigration from the South to the Midwest during the Red Summer of 1919. History suggests that the unique camaraderie amongst Black people and their ability to alternately thrive, suffer and recover makes them the ultimate survivors.

I aim to explore the transcendent hero's journey of Black characters through the exploration of self-discovery, psychological development, and robust transformation. One of the greatest survival stories of our time is quite simply the history of Black people.



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**"Mutual understanding and sympathy
between the races will be followed by
harmony and co-operation."**

**GOVERNOR LOWDEN
ILLINOIS, 1919**

CONTACT US !



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