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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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A JOSEPH HOLDER PRODUCTION

# ALTAMONT

*One Concert. One Night. One Life Changed Forever.*

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**LOS ANGELES, CA** — Joseph Holder announces *ALTAMONT*, an original feature film set against the final, burning months of the American counterculture. A romantic drama photographed by three-time Academy Award-winning cinematographer **Emmanuel Lubezki**, *ALTAMONT* is currently seeking production partners for full development.

## PROJECT SYNOPSIS

In the summer of 1969, seventeen-year-old **Marcus Johnson** — a gifted Black guitarist from Oakland — and **Lily Sanders** — a white cop's daughter and poet from Berkeley — meet at Spin City Records. Each reaches for the other's music: Marcus for the Rolling Stones, Lily for the Temptations. They trade albums. They trade something else, too.

What begins as a challenge becomes the most urgent love story either has ever known. Their romance unfolds across the bars, parks, bedrooms, and backroads of the Bay Area — Marcus performing original music at Oakland jazz cafés, Lily filling notebooks with verses about a world she's trying to believe in. Together they dare to imagine a future. They plan to disappear together after one final concert.

On **December 6, 1969**, four friends load into Marcus's '57 Chevy and drive south to the **Altamont Free Concert**. The sky is gold at dawn. By nightfall, racial violence unmasked in the crowd turns fatal — and the decade's most cherished idealism dies with Marcus in Lily's arms.

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*"Promise me we won't let them break this."*

— Lily Sanders, from the screenplay

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## THEMES & VISION

*ALTAMONT* is a story about love across the lines America draws — and about what happens when the country refuses to honor the idealism it sells its young people. It asks the questions the counterculture era left unanswered: What is music worth if it cannot protect the people making it? What do we do with a dream that the world refuses to sustain?

The film explores race in America through intimacy rather than ideology — rooting its argument in two teenagers falling in love in Berkeley in 1969, in vinyl record bins and jazz cafés and moonlit parks. Its tragedy is not abstract. It is Marcus

and Lily, and what they were going to be.

### PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

#### **Marcus Johnson** — *Protagonist, 17, Oakland*

Gifted guitarist and songwriter, working at a jazz café, carrying his father's warning about fighting for your place in the world. He loves without reservation. His final words: "You're my song, Lil."

#### **Lily Sanders** — *Protagonist, 17, Berkeley*

A cop's daughter with a poet's eye and a rebel's heart. She leaves home barefoot in the night, boards a Greyhound bus at the end with Marcus's denim jacket against her chest.

#### **James** — *Supporting, Marcus's best friend*

Clear-eyed and protective. He warns Marcus early. After Altamont, he stops singing about change and walks through the doors of the Black Panthers.

#### **Tom Sanders** — *Antagonist, Lily's father*

A police officer whose quiet authority becomes explicit prejudice. His command — "You are not to see him again" — sets the film's tragedy in motion.

### ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK

Every song in *ALTAMONT* was written into the screenplay by name and scene — not curated afterward, but built into the film's structure as a narrative and emotional element. The 22-track soundtrack spans the full arc of 1969: from "*The Sound of Silence*" (Simon & Garfunkel) over the film's elegiac opening, to "*Dance to the Music*" (Sly and the Family Stone) when Marcus and Lily first meet, through "*Sympathy for the Devil*" (The Rolling Stones) during the climactic violence at Altamont, to Sam Cooke's "*A Change Is Gonna Come*" carrying Lily away on the final bus into the California hills.

The film also features an original composition, "**Justice**", written by Derrick Smith. Marcus performs it live at a house party in Act Two — the moment Lily fully understands what he is and what the world stands to lose. The full composition plays over the end credits as a final elegy.

The complete soundtrack is available for preview at the project's producer portal. A curated Spotify playlist is available at: [open.spotify.com/playlist/1BljO7u3E8X1tpp8LaDroJ](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1BljO7u3E8X1tpp8LaDroJ)

### THE CREATIVE TEAM

**Joseph Holder** — Writer & Producer. Holder wrote *ALTAMONT* as a feature film that places the audience inside one of the most documented nights in American cultural history through the most personal of lenses: two teenagers in love. As producer, Holder brings deep commitment to the project's authentic period texture, its unflinching treatment of race, and its emotional fidelity to the characters at its center.

**Emmanuel Lubezki** — Director of Photography. Three-time Academy Award winner (*Gravity*, *Birdman*, *The Revenant*), Lubezki brings his signature naturalistic, immersive visual language to a film that demands it: the warm, analog textures of 1969 California; the chaotic, verité energy of 300,000 people at Altamont; the intimate scenes between Marcus and Lily that carry the film's full emotional weight.

#### MARKET POSITION

*ALTAMONT* targets the prestige drama market alongside *Moonlight* (A24/Barry Jenkins), *Almost Famous* (DreamWorks/Cameron Crowe), and *BlacKkKlansman* (Focus Features/Spike Lee) — films with a strong point of view about American history told through intimate, personal stories that attract both awards recognition and crossover commercial performance. The film's title is its own marketing asset: instantly legible to audiences who know the story, and a compelling mystery to those who don't.

#### PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

**TITLE** ALTAMONT

**FORMAT** Theatrical Feature Film

**GENRE** Romantic Drama / Period Film

**SETTING** Berkeley & Oakland, California — Summer through December 6, 1969

**WRITER & PRODUCER** Joseph Holder

**DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY** Emmanuel Lubezki

**PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS** Marcus Johnson (17, Oakland) & Lily Sanders (17, Berkeley)

**COMPARABLE TITLES** Moonlight · Almost Famous · BlacKkKlansman

**SOUNDTRACK** 22 tracks, all placed by scene · Original song: "Justice" by Derrick Smith

**DEVELOPMENT STATUS** Screenplay Complete · Seeking Production Partners

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#### PRESS CONTACT

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Producer Portal: [altamontfilm.com/producer](http://altamontfilm.com/producer)

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*All materials are confidential and intended exclusively for industry use. Screenplay, pitch deck, and full press kit available upon request or through the producer portal.*