



# DETROIT ROUNDS

**feature film now in pre-production**

# ROUNDS

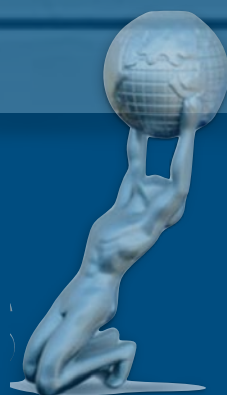
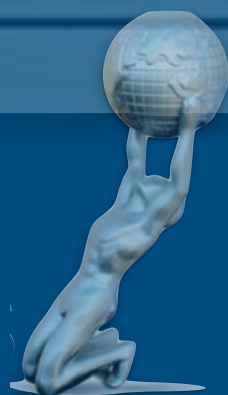
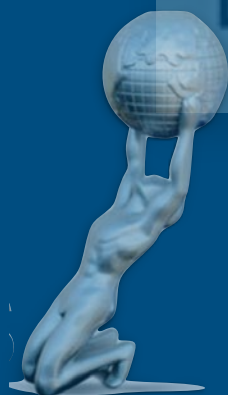
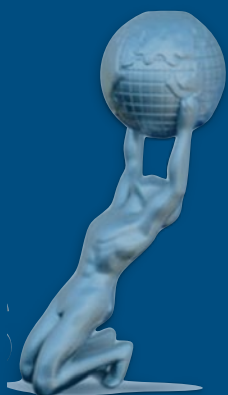
by  
Sean Michael Rice

Based on the play *Rounds* by Sean Michael Rice

Winner of six NAACP Image/Theatre Awards  
including **BEST PLAY** (Equity Waiver Production)



PLAYERS PRESS







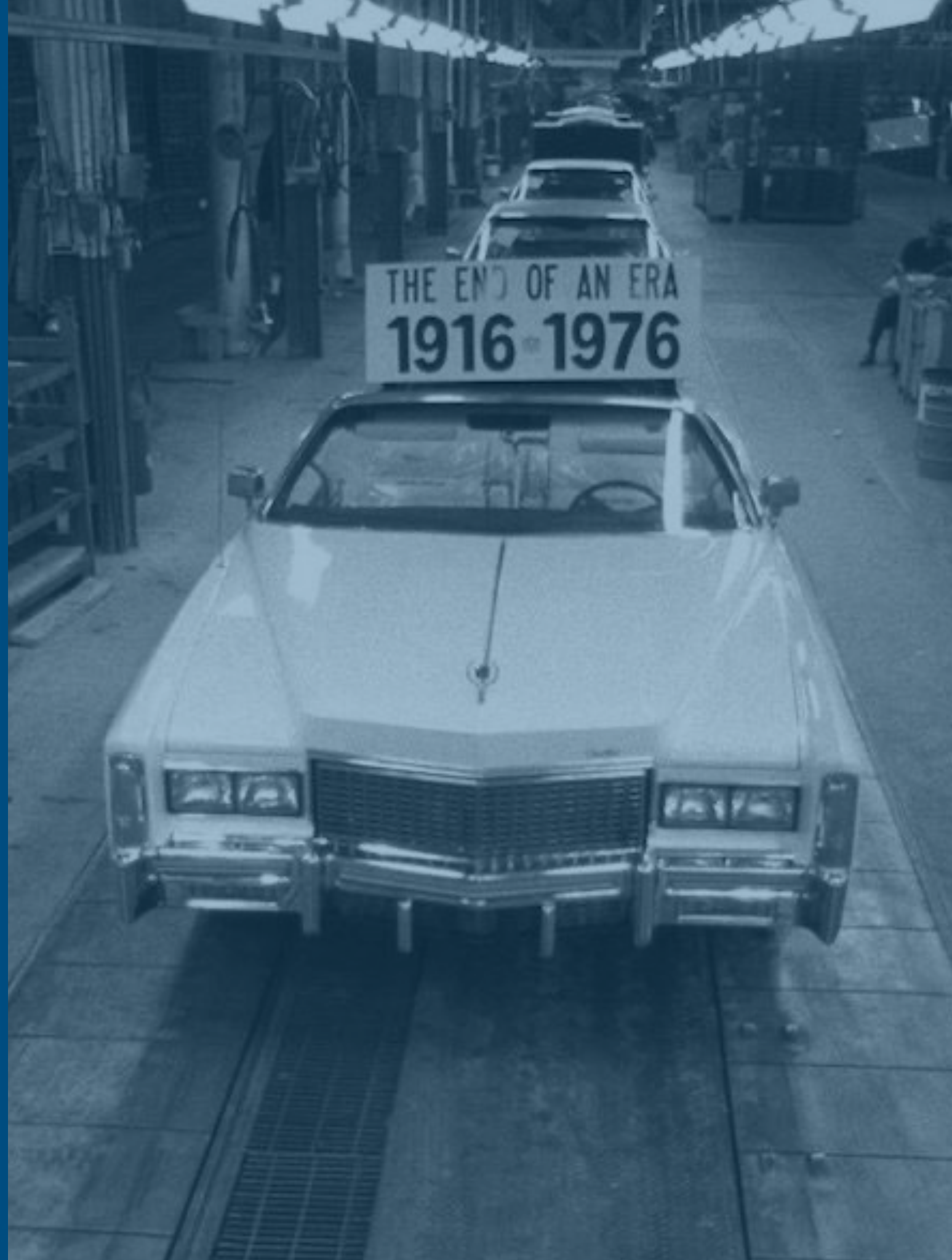
DETROIT ROUNDS is a story of hard times, oppression, and confronting tragedy...  
but ultimately a story of hope.



# The Story

Detroit, 1976.

A former auto worker hides the pain of his son's suicide, while grappling with another failed relationship and barely scraping by to make ends meet. His only respite is the local bar owned by a survivor of the '67 riots.

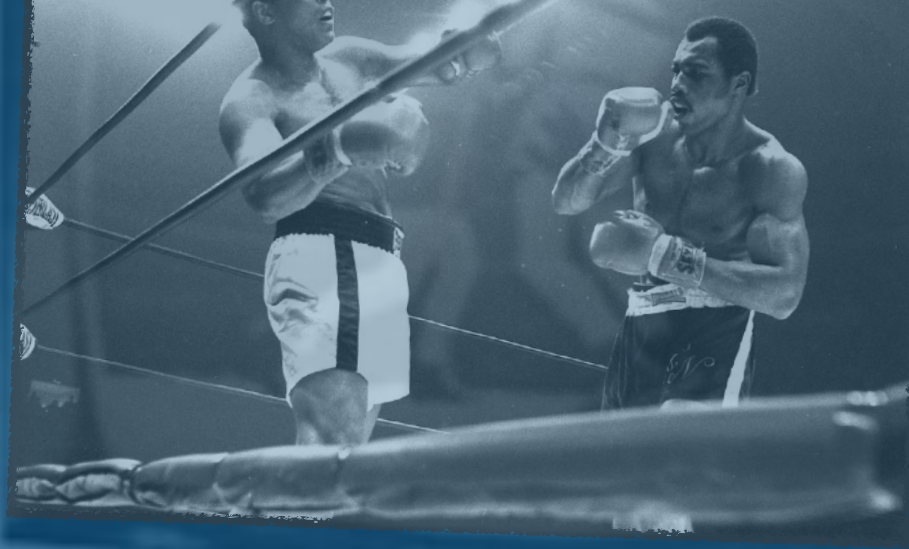




Amidst a union strike that puts their jobs on the line, three young veterans try to come to grips with their friend's death while facing their own internal struggles - a new father with a family to support, a gambler with a crippling debt, and a gentle soul being destroyed by PTSD nightmares.



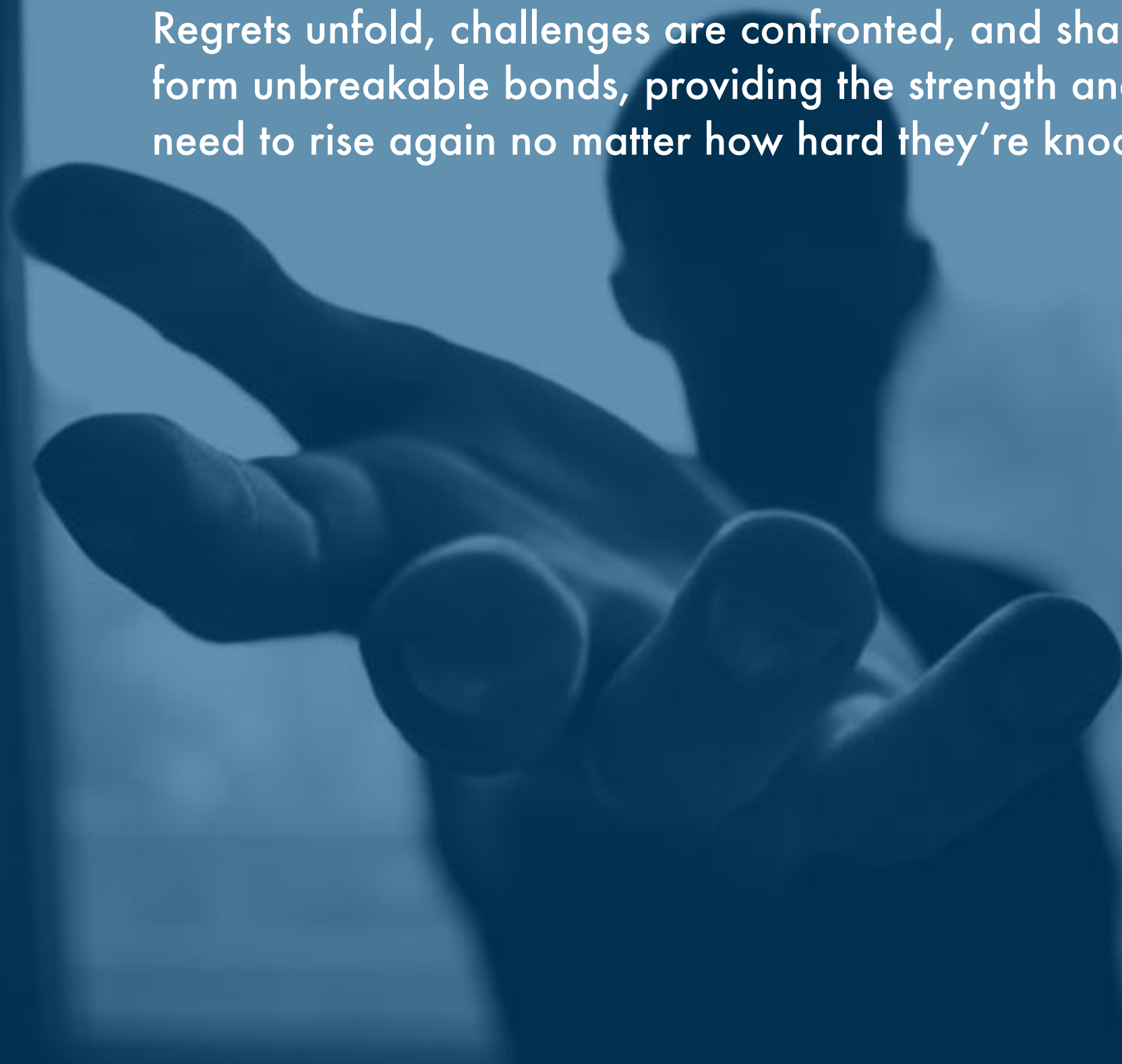




The four men drown in silent grief until they gather to watch the final Ali-Norton title bout. In an apartment too small for their collective anguish, their unchecked emotions are as unrestrained as punch after punch thrown in the ring.



Regrets unfold, challenges are confronted, and shared experiences form unbreakable bonds, providing the strength and hope they need to rise again no matter how hard they're knocked down.

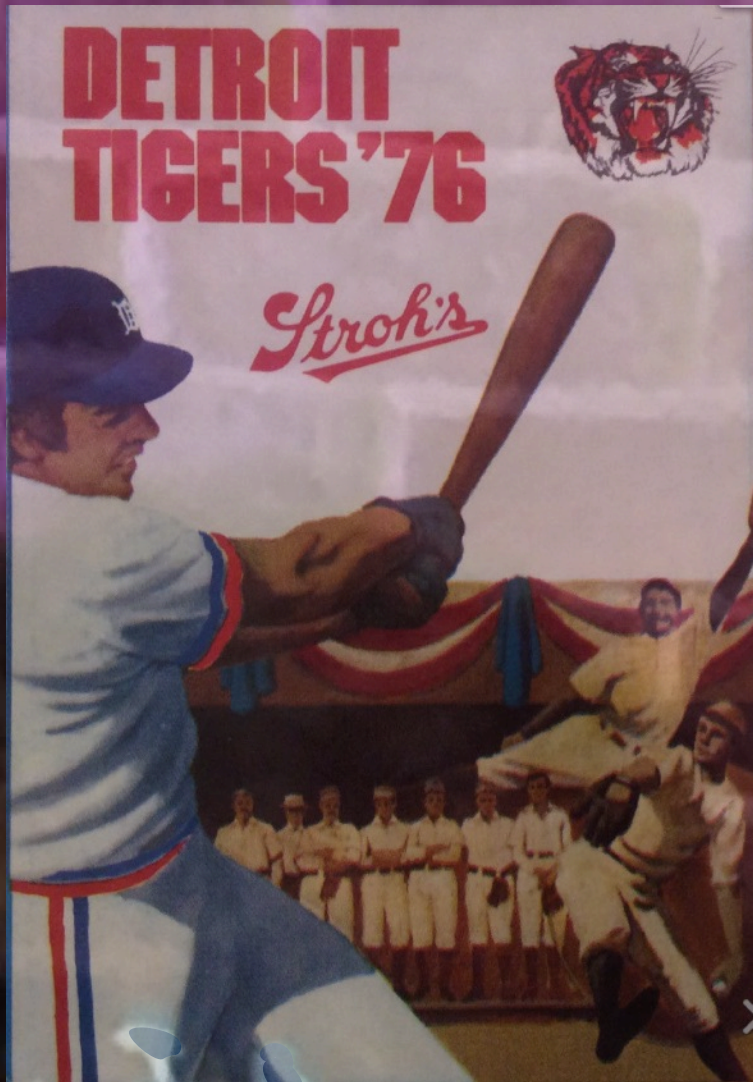


# Locations





# Queenie's Bar





# The Apartment





# The Alley





# Characters

A blue-tinted photograph of a busy city street corner. In the foreground, a vintage car is parked on the left side of the street. Several pedestrians are walking across the street, some carrying bags. In the background, there are multi-story buildings with various signs. One prominent sign reads "AIRPORTS" in large letters, with "AIR" and "PORTS" stacked vertically. Another sign to the right says "PARK". The overall scene depicts a bustling urban environment.



# Freeman Charles



A grieving father, Freeman is tired of the fight. Forced out of the auto plant with early retirement, he gives most of his meager payout to his ex-wife and works as a handyman to make ends meet. He was estranged from his son Barry before he died, but now connects with his son's friends Lenny, Cecil and Winston with the hope that they might provide insight as to why Barry committed suicide.

# Winston Jones



Feeling cheated at work and still reeling from the suicide of his friend, Winston wants justice. He claims his anger gives him his spirit, but it also gives him trouble. A Vietnam vet, married and with his first child on the way, he wants a better life for his family than the one he was dealt.



# Lenny Munk

A gambling man and by all accounts a chump. Lenny is consistently in over his head, even when given a break. He's quick to take the easy way and place blame elsewhere if it goes awry. He was on the production line at Ford with the other guys, but when Freeman got the boot, he was promoted to shift supervisor... a position for which he's not qualified.



# Cecil Jay



Plagued with nightmares since returning from Vietnam, Cecil got a job at Ford thanks to Freeman. He keeps a low profile, earning his pay and asking for nothing more. He retreats from confrontation with the mindset that if a problem isn't acknowledged, it doesn't exist.



# Queenie



The tumultuous impact of the '67 Detroit riots always in the back of her mind, Queenie took over ownership of a neighborhood bar to keep business in the area. Unattached and unavailable, she keeps to herself, but is also fiercely loyal to her regulars so outsiders better respect when they step through her front door. Think Angela Davis as a bar owner that people turn to for advice, empathy and tough love.



## Dot

Freeman's ex-wife has canned beer class but champagne taste. If you called her a diva, she'd take it as a compliment. Shacked up with another man, she did once love Freeman but now she just pities him. She feels bad about the death of a stepson she didn't know very well but "life goes on."

## Mrs. Jeffers

Freeman's upstairs neighbor lives for soap operas and game shows, and one can find her most days in that room-hogging La-Z-Boy recliner; the one big exception being Sundays. That's her day of rest and she spends her time with the ladies at Church.







# Social Impact

The wage gap widens.  
Racism and sexism run rampant.  
Vets return home with PTSD.  
Labor force tensions reach a dangerous tipping point.  
Political relations are on the brink of collapse.

These themes are as relevant today as they were almost 40 years ago when the stage play *Rounds* premiered. The feature film **Detroit Rounds** is an opportunity to expand the audience beyond the boundaries of a stage and to harness the power of storytelling to create social change. *Detroit Rounds* will amplify the voices that need to be heard and present the faces that need to be seen, both in front of and behind the camera.



# Impact Investment

An investing philosophy focused on yielding financial returns as well as social benefits, Impact Investing is more than a tactic to avoid negative social outcomes in one's investment portfolio or simply an answer to the call to be philanthropic. Impact Investing is a strategy of investment in for-profit companies and projects with positive impact creation inherent to their business model.

Against Type Films stands in unison with the new cohort of entertainment producers and investors who understand that films can produce profits along with principle and purpose. Our business approach is to recognize each project as a social value that will generate sustainable, long-term financial returns.



Against Type Films is proud to partner with Stowe Story Labs for fiscal sponsorship of *Detroit Rounds* during our development phase.



# Comps



Moonlight



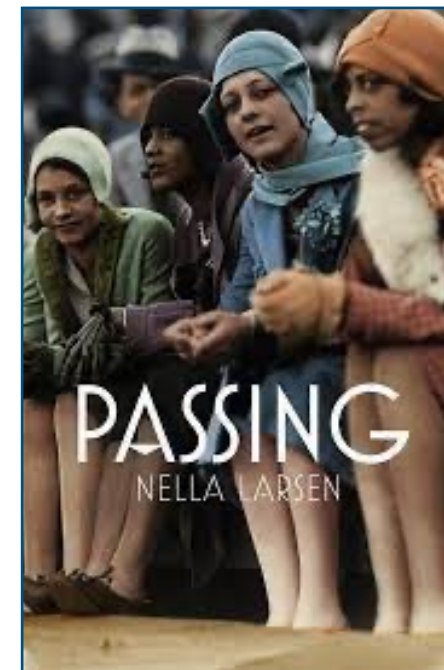
One Night In Miami



If Beale Street Could Talk



Ma Rainey's Black Bottom



Passing

# Team



A coalition of industry professionals encompassing Women, BIPOC and LGBTQ, we produce independent projects that champion the historically neglected. Our work is inclusive both in front of and behind the camera.

Against Type Films was founded on the belief that the best work is a result of creative vision, collaborative filmmaking and sound business strategy.

Against Type Film, LLC has secured and owns the option to the play Rounds by Sean Michael Rice.





**Haskell Vaughn Anderson**  
**Executive Producer, Actor**

A film, television and theatre actor, Haskell received the NAACP Best Supporting Actor Award for the original stage production of *Rounds*, the play from which *Detroit Rounds* was adapted. In addition to iconic starring roles in the award-winning festival favorite *Heartland* and the box office hit *Kickboxer* (a fan favorite of Quentin Tarantino), Haskell recently wrapped starring roles in the features *Guillotine* and *Angel*. In addition to roles off-Broadway and numerous stage productions throughout the country, his extensive television work includes *Barry*, *Station 19*, *General Hospital*, *The West Wing*, *ER* and *Agent X* among others.



**Mugs Cahill**  
**Screenwriter, Executive Producer**

Mugs's feature and television projects have earned distinction in renowned screenwriting competitions and labs, including The Writers Lab, Sundance YouTube New Voices, Final Draft Big Break, PAGE, Big Apple Film Festival, Vancouver International Women's Film Festival, and Raindance. She was recently selected to attend the Talent Lab at the 2022 Reykjavik International Film Festival. A graduate of Trinity University with a B.A., Economics, as well as study of Philosophy at Boston College and Bass Performance at Musician's Institute, Mugs spent nearly two decades as an advertising Creative Director. She is a Stowe Story Labs alum, a Sundance Collab Creator, and an ISA Development Fellow.



### **Noelle Hubbell, Producer**

Before making the jump to production side of feature films, Noelle started her career at Panavision. On-set experience encompasses accurate assessments of budget and schedule parameters as well as managing crews of up to 200+ people. Before transitioning to Independent Producer, Noelle worked on the feature films Don't Worry Darling directed by Olivia Wilde, Disney+'s Cheaper By The Dozen, and Netflix's We Have a Ghost. Noelle produced the feature Whelm and has produced several award-winning shorts including The Gillymuck, currently in development as a feature at Fox Digital Studios.



### **Deidra Dwyer, Producer**


Starting her entertainment career in set decoration before transitioning from production accounting to producing, Deidra has practical experience below and above the line. She has worked for HBO, Warner Brothers, Sony, Amazon Prime, ABC, and NBC Universal on productions including Jimmy Kimmel Live, Parenthood, Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D, Mindy Kaling's The Sex Lives of College Girls, and the Olivia Wilde directed feature film Don't Worry Darling. Deidra and her wife founded Fire & Wine, an entertainment industry collective that fosters conversation while providing a sanctuary for discussion.



### **Julie Edwards, Associate Producer**

With more than 20 years of marketing experience in brand management, product launch, public relations, new business development and integrated marketing and sales, Julie has created successful campaigns and facilitated milestone achievements for companies including NAVTech, Nokia, The Walt Disney Company, Universal Studios, and Brightline/Virgin Trains. Julie co-founded The House On Lang, a multi-experience retail space at the forefront of fashion and home decor that showcases local artists.





**CONTACT**  
**Against Type Films**

**Mugs Cahill**  
**(310) 980-0767**  
**[info@AgainstTypeFilms.com](mailto:info@AgainstTypeFilms.com)**

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