



A C&I STUDIOS FILM

CHRISTMAS
EVE

An unlikely romantic connection revives two disheartened souls, illuminating the brighter side of their shared humanity on a remarkable Christmas Eve night.

Synopsis

A young man living in New York City struggles to cope with the economical and racial divide separating him from a happy life. It is Christmas Eve and every injustice — every ounce of emotional brutality that he has endured — has reached its tipping point. He battles against depression, but his life is sad and getting sadder still.

During this time of self-reflection and despair, an unexpected encounter with a stranger offers him respite and a glimpse into their shared humanity despite their differing social statuses.

Michael lives in Brooklyn. He works three minimum wage jobs. It's the morning of Christmas Eve and he is late to his first job as a valet at a 5-star hotel. He speeds through city traffic on his bicycle. He frantically parks on the sidewalk outside of the hotel. A pair of keys are thrown in his face. He hasn't even punched in. He rushes into the parking garage to bring the car around. This is his routine.

"My mornings are humbling," says Michael. "There's something about these jobs that have always been hard for me." He's treated to no tip from the owner of the Maserati, reminding him of the harsh reality that is pulling him deeper into depression: *that he is less than*.

Less than and it's off to his afternoon job — a line cook at a run-down diner. He's late. Again.

This is where he thinks. Not of getting out but of how he arrived — how his decisions led to him flipping burgers in a shitty diner. "Literally flipping burgers," he repeats to himself. These are deadly thoughts yet he clings to them. Looking out of the back window, he sees a hungry homeless man standing outside in the cold. He feeds him. Though the homeless man does not know it, they share a similar struggle. Michael is fired for giving away food.

Lost, he turns to the only mother figure in his life: an old woman named Yolanda, who he accompanies on walks through the park. While sitting on a park bench, they talk about his life. She's the only person who cares for him — who worries for him. "I can see you, Michael," she says at the end of their conversation. *At least someone does*.

At night, Michael works as a server for a catering company. Tonight, they are catering a lavish fundraising event. The guests are rich and white. The philanthropy is for children who are poor and black. He's the only one to laugh at the irony.

During the event, he meets a woman named Evelyn. She is there with her husband. She doesn't want to be. Though she does not recognize the irony of the event, she sees the charade.

She's attracted to Michael. It's not just physical attraction. It's something much deeper. He carries himself differently. He sees the event for what it truly is. And he laughs at it, too. Their brief, polite (yet genuine) conversation turns into a total escape. They abandon the fundraising event and, instead, take to New York City streets to share their favorite spots with one another — locations that inherently separate people like him from people like her.

It is here where Michael learns how alike they are despite coming from completely different worlds. Through Evelyn, he learns that despair is not absolute. But happy endings don't come easy to guys like Michael. His connection with Evelyn — whatever they feel for each other on Christmas Eve — can only last the night.

C&I Films

Christmas Eve is a C&I Films original short film. C&I Films is a multimedia film and television series production company that conceptualizes and writes original concepts. C&I Films sources literary property, assembles teams and finances to produce, finalize, and distribute original productions, and packages multimedia projects for mass market. C&I Films houses a team of creative visionaries determined to bring new concepts to life. We use the highest quality RED Cameras on the market and house a collection of advanced editing softwares, rendering programs, motion animation softwares, and audio technologies to ensure each project exceeds its potential. Together, we imagine and produce emotive short films and television series that change perspectives and reshape the arena of multimedia consumption.











WELCOME

ONLY



12.5









Christmas Eve Cast & Crew

Written & Directed by

Joshua Otis Miller

Produced by

Amy Joy Miller

Starring

Rafael Jordan as Michael
Elisabetta Fantone as Evelyn
Carolyn Johnson as Yolanda

Thank You