

combustion films presents

SPECIAL UNIT







synopsis

Due to the fairness in disabilities act the Van Nuys PD is forced to hire four handicapped undercover detectives and their training officer happens to be the worst cop in L.A.



title **SPECIAL UNIT**
year of production **2016**
duration **102 min**
country of production **USA**
genre **comedy**
shoot format **UHD**
finish format **DCP**
ratio **185:1**
sound format **5.1 Surround**
laguage **english**

principal cast

garrett fowler
alvin
sophie
morgan
mac
captain wynn
tara small
margie

christopher titus
david figlioli
debbie lee carrington
michael aronin
tobias forrest
billy gardell
cynthia watros
rachel bradley

principal crew

director & writer
producers

christopher titus
randy kulina
rachel bradley
andy cohen

executive producers

richard mcwhorter
christopher titus

cinematographer
editor

kimo easterwood
ryan farmer

production designer
costume designer

megan elizabeth bell
dawn sharp



director's statement

After a ten year quest to make a movie starring disabled actors and comedians, SPECIAL UNIT got finished. I have friends who are disabled and they deal with a different world. As I crossed the street one sunny California day, there was a woman on the other side in a wheelchair; she had one leg, purse clenched on her lap and was looking very sad. Everyone just walked by. Not even the normal head nod was given to her by the people who walked past. I walked by and said "What's up kid?" She didn't say "Hello." she said "Thank you." It woke me up to the invisibility they live in. The disabled have an extra tough life. Besides having a disability they have the public looking away, or worse, staring. Imagine living in that, all day, everyday. On top of that Hollywood doesn't utilize them often. If they do it's in a Hallmark movie or playing a "special little hero".

This movie was written to cross that line and stop making them "Special" and instead, make them just like us. Able, angry, funny, demanding, funny, fearless and again, funny. We did not treat them precious at all in this script. You can't make a difference feathering the accelerator so in this movie we pulled the PC limiter and dropped the hammer. The idea for SPECIAL UNIT came to me in a flash and I had to pull my car over because I was laughing so hard. Combustion Films' motto is "Funny First" but after we get that, we want to make a difference with whatever we do. Hope you enjoy the film.

-Christopher Titus

CHRISTOPHER TITUS was a seemingly overnight success with his own TV series, "Titus", in 2000. However, Christopher struggled to reach that peak. His father was a womanizing beer guzzling salesman and Titus endured a series of stepmothers until, at age 12, he decided to run away from home to live with his schizophrenic mother. From these situations he developed what he would call "therapeutic stand-up comedy." With six full length comedy specials complete Titus has now set his eyes on filmmaking, and like his stand-up, he hopes the movies he crafts will make a differences in the world.

lead actors with disabilities



TOBIAS FORREST as *Mac*

"Toby" is an actor with a disability and wheelchair user whose credits include , "The Sessions", "Queen Sugar", and "Weeds". As a voice over artist he has worked on "Modern Family", "Halo: Fall of Reach" and more. His band, Cityzen also won Hard Rock Rising LA and have played many venues and non-profit fundraisers. Their song "Invisible Man" is featured in SPECIAL UNIT. Opportunities for performers with disabilities are rare and Toby hopes to encourage others to live their dreams despite their difficulties or differences.



DEBBIE LEE CARRINGTON as *Sophie*

Debbie has made the most out of her career and has made her height a strength. Her credits include "Total Recall", "Men in Black", and "Star Wars: Return of the Jedi" . She continues to live in Los Angeles pursuing a wide range of acting roles. After playing Sophie in the original SPECIAL UNIT pilot, director Christopher Titus knew that he had to have her back to play the firey detective with a big shotgun. She hopes to inspire other actors who have disabilities to dream large, work hard , and make names for themselves.



MICHAEL ARONIN as *Morgan*

Michael is a nationally acclaimed speaker who teaches his audiences how to get past personal shortcomings and move forward in their careers. His goal is to enlighten and entertain from his perspective of being born with cerebral palsy (CP). He feels fortunate that he was born with CP and that this is all he knows. Michael is clear that he is speaking for himself and not on behalf of anyone else with a disability. Michael's admiration, trust, and friendship for Christopher Titus drew him to Special Unit. He knew Titus would "do this the right way" and as it turns out, Michael was proven to be right.

PRODUCTION STILLS





COMBUSTION FILMS

FESTIVALS

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