

A SHORT FILM • NEW YORK • 2026

PAPER PLANES

What happens when
faith isn't enough?

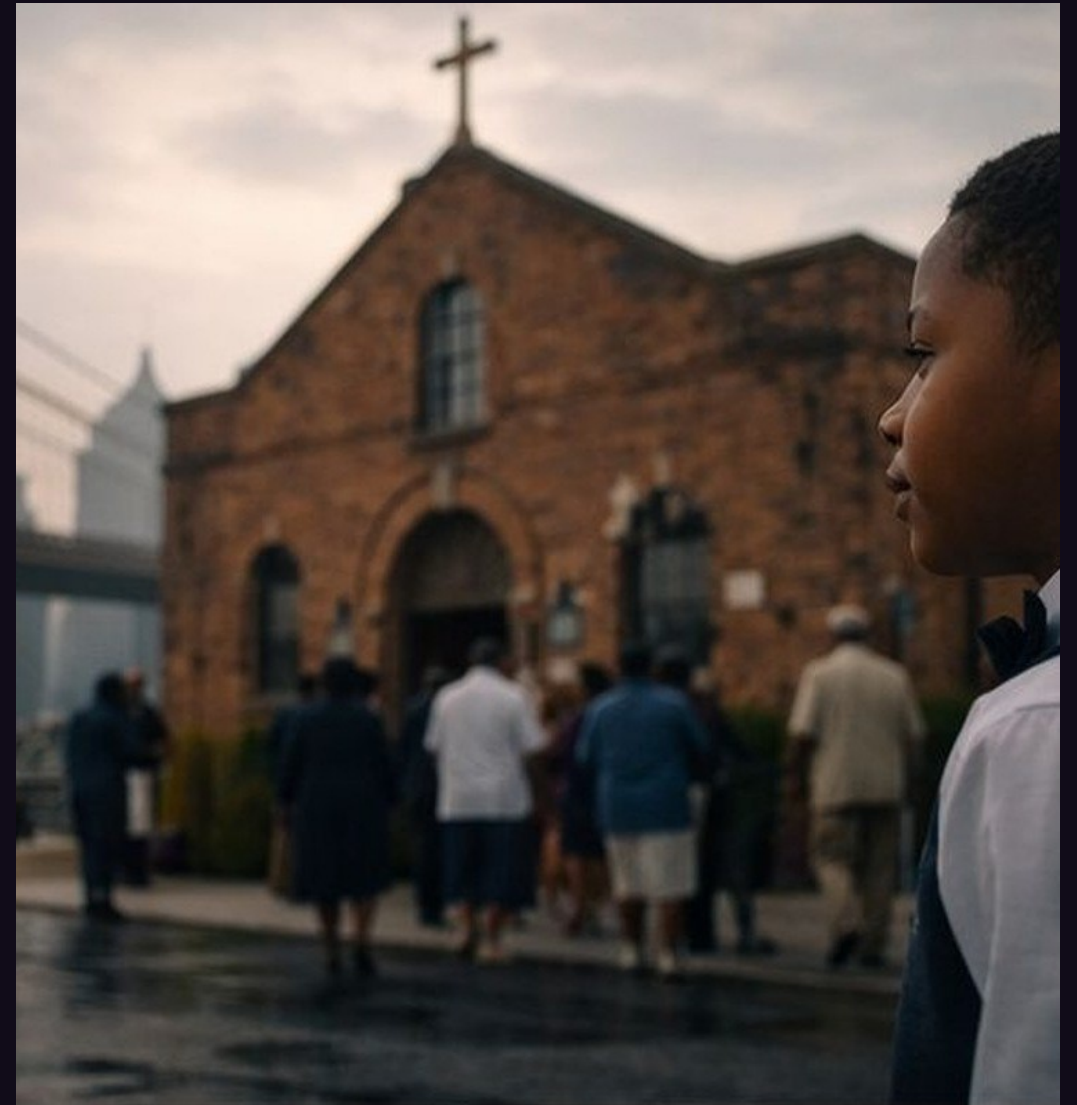
Written & directed by Mark Banning
Produced by Dave Flynn



ONE QUESTION CHANGES EVERYTHING

**When the person
who makes you feel
safe is suddenly
gone from reach...**

Where do you put your faith?



MEET LEE

He is ten. The world has changed.



After his beloved uncle is violently attacked and left in a coma, Lee struggles to reconcile the God he has been taught to trust with a world capable of unimaginable harm.

As his family searches for hope, Lee begins asking questions no one can easily answer.



MORE THAN A STORY ABOUT FAITH

What holds a family together when the answers fall apart?

In many Black families, faith is a source of belonging, strength, and continuity. Paper Planes explores what happens when grief challenges that foundation—not as a rejection of belief, but as a search for understanding.

THE CINEMATIC LANGUAGE

A child's-eye view of a complicated world.



The camera stays close to Lee.

The proposed visual language favors child-height framing, intimate family moments, and adults sometimes seen in fragments. Sound and silence express what Lee cannot say.

The intention is to place the audience alongside Lee rather than observe his uncertainty from a distance.

THE PAPER AIRPLANE

**Something fragile.
Something hopeful.
Something we let go.**

A recurring visual motif that can evoke childhood, vulnerability, and the possibility of hope.



THE CREATIVE APPROACH

Intimacy, memory, and the emotional truth of childhood.

MOONLIGHT

Childhood interiority and environment

IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK

Warmth, intimacy, and Black love

CROOKLYN

A Brooklyn childhood perspective

Creative touchstones, not comparisons of scale or budget.

MEET THE FILMMAKERS

Three filmmakers. One shared vision.



MARK BANNING

WRITER / DIRECTOR

Award-winning filmmaker behind *Jellysmoke*, recognized at the Los Angeles Film Festival and the Independent Spirit Awards.



CLIFF CHARLES

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Two-time Emmy-nominated cinematographer with acclaimed work across documentary, film, and television.



DAVE FLYNCH

PRODUCER

Film and television professional with 20+ years of experience, including *Nanny*, *Harriet*, and *The Irishman*.

A PROVEN CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP

A shared history. A new story.

Paper Planes reunites writer/director Mark Banning, director of photography Cliff Charles, and producer Dave Flynych following their collaboration on the award-winning feature Jellysmoke (2005).

STORY**Mark Banning**

Character-led direction and emotionally grounded storytelling.

IMAGE**Cliff Charles**

An accomplished cinematic eye and visual storytelling craft.

PRODUCTION**Dave Flynych**

Decades of production and sound-post experience across film and television.

Built on creative trust, collaboration, and a commitment to authentic storytelling.

THE PLAN

A focused New York production.

A disciplined approach to bringing a character-driven short film to the screen.

01	FORMAT	Original narrative short film
02	LOCATION	New York City
03	SCHEDULE	November 2026 Five shooting days
04	NEXT	Festival submissions

Purposeful scope. Experienced collaborators. A clear production plan.

BE PART OF THE STORY

Help bring PAPER PLANES to the screen.

\$30,000

PUBLIC FUNDRAISING GOAL

Your support helps fund the cast, crew, locations, equipment, and essential production resources.

Pre-production visual references only; imagery does not depict film footage or production stills.



SCAN TO SUPPORT

[Donate through Fractured Atlas](https://paperplanesfilm.netlify.app)

paperplanesfilm.netlify.app