CREATIVE AID

+

A CONCEPTZOMBIE PROJECT

'SHOULD AMY SWIM' PITCH DECK

a film by Mason Bendewald

Should Amy Swim

Logline

The vice principal of a suburban Chicago high school is thrust into an impossible position when she's tasked with leading a diverse committee of students, parents, and faculty to decide whether a trans athlete should compete on the Women's Swim Team.

As tensions rise, the group's differing perspectives — shaped by race, religion, and socioeconomic backgrounds—challenge her leadership and force everyone to confront their own biases and beliefs.

Director's Statement ———————

SHOULD AMY SWIM doesn't offer an answer to the question, but rather begs the audience to continue meaningful dialogue that our fractured society desperately needs. I grew up in an era and a community where disagreement and debate were part of daily life. Listening was valued as much as speaking, and differing opinions were opportunities to learn, not threats to personal beliefs. My goal is to inspire all viewers to confront their own biases and move toward acceptance and deeper understanding of one another.

Characters & Quotes

"Let her swim, just not in my pool"

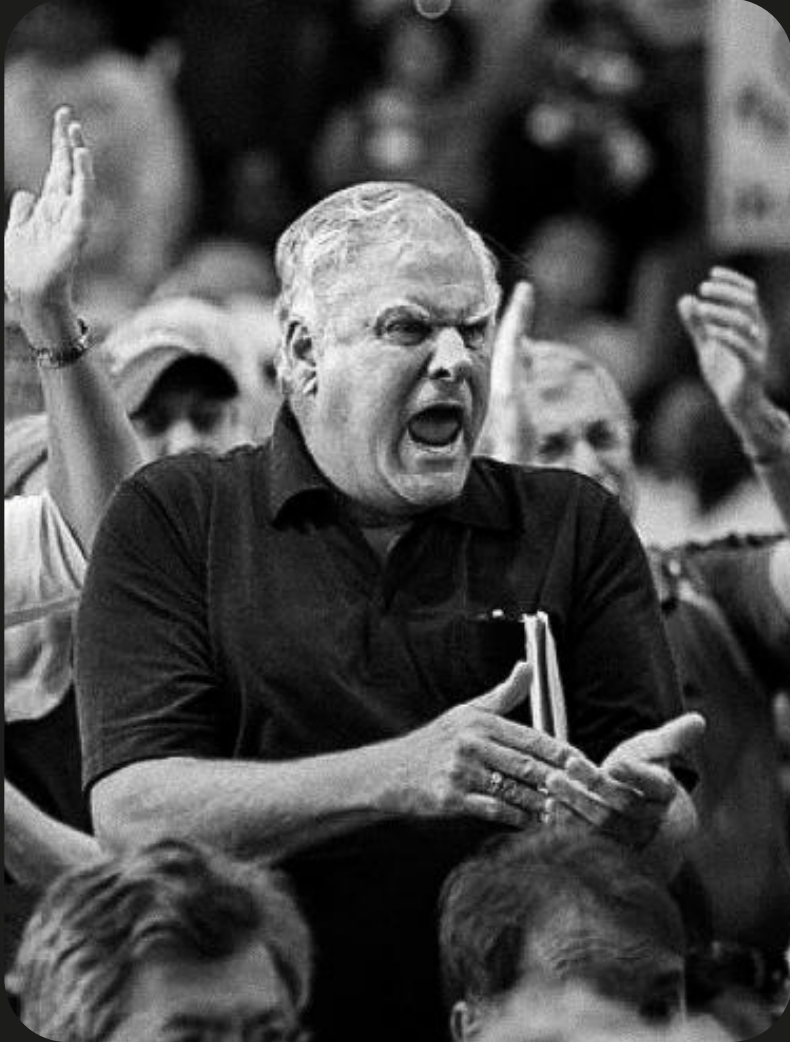-Melissa Wagner, Swim Team Captain

Characters & Quotes

"Can we leave God out of this? We don't all think the way you do."

- Tim Chef, Single Parent and Chicago Blackhawks Asst. Coach

Characters & Quotes

"This is some woke bullshit! There will be consequences! You can count on that!"

– Father yelling at school meeting

Characters & Quotes

"Doesn't a taller woman with more muscle mass, like Serena Williams have an athletic advantage over another woman?"

– Trevor James
*Math Teacher and
Musical Theater Director*

Ms. Cook

Vice Principal Cook is on the cusp of becoming principal, but today will be a make-or-break test of her resolve in ways she never anticipated.

Ensemble

Ms. Cook	Nicky C.	Bill Canter	Sharon	Felix
Vice Principal	Student	Grandparent	Parent	Parent

Mr. James	Melissa	Tim C	Sue	Daniel
Teacher	Student	Parent	Parent	Parent

Trapped in a airless classroom, a diverse committee of parents, teachers and students debate. As characters dig in to their defensive and self-righteous points of view, tempers soar, and what was already a challenging day takes a dark turn.

Inspiration

The main reference film is 12 Angry Men, where a contentious jury deliberates the fate of a young man. Similarly SHOULD AMY SWIM explores how personal biases, and preconceptions, exist everywhere, keeping us from conducting productive civil discourse.

Cinematography

SHOULD AMY SWIM will be shot in black and white, reflecting how our characters view the issue—strictly black and white, right and wrong. It's a nod to 12 Angry Men and its stark, timeless approach. Black and white photography strips away distractions, emphasizing texture, detail, and emotional depth, drawing viewers into a world that invites a closer, more contemplative look.

Summation

In a world where politicians and media steer us to conflict, reclaiming honest, community-driven conversation is vital.

SHOULD AMY SWIM challenges us to rethink how we engage in crucial conversations. Right now, we need these dialogues more than ever; without them, we're lost. This film creates space to confront our biases, face our fears, and strive for understanding beyond surface divides.

Summation & Budget

SHOULD AMY SWIM is slated to shoot in Chicago and is currently raising funds.Taking advantage of tax credits and modified low-budget SAG/AFTRA contracts we've managed to creatively reduce a 2-3 million dollar film budget to 800K without sacrificing production value.

Contact Mason for further information if you'd like to join the team in making SHOULD AMY SWIM.

Should Amy Swim

Mason Bendewald
+1 (323) 854-7157
email: Mason@Bendewald.com

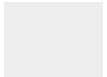# Should Amy Swim

Should Amy Swim

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