

# The Best of *Ira*

## A Short Film

Dramatic Short Film

Shoot Dates: July 29 – 31, 2023

Expected Runtime: 16.5 minutes

Genre: Drama

Country of Origin: United States

Filming Location(s): Country Club  
Hills/Chicago IL

Format: Digital

Aspect Ratio: 4:3

Film: Color

Budget: \$42,676

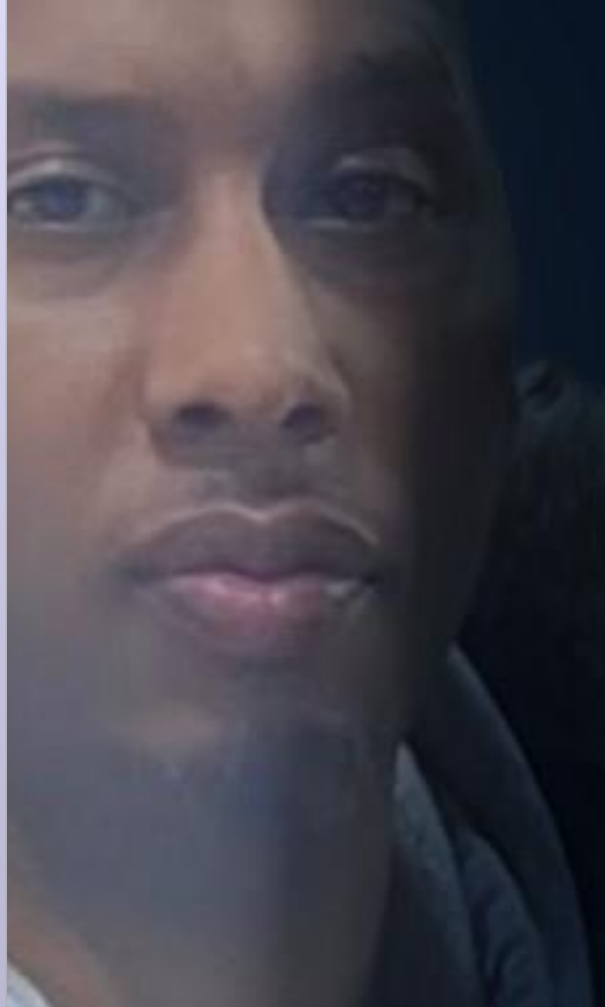
The *Best of Ira* is a proof-of-concept film that explores the complexities of fatherhood and Black masculinity, a valuable film for funders who want to support diverse and meaningful storytelling.

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## Shoot Dates:

### July 29 - 31



# The Best of Ira



Ira is on a mission to teach his son the valuable lessons of life, love, and maintaining respect. But when Ira is murdered, Best is left to navigate the complexities of life on his own. The film explores themes of masculinity, upward-mobility, and the security of Black men in a world that hasn't quite figured out how to support or embrace them.

# THE STATEMENT

Writer/Director

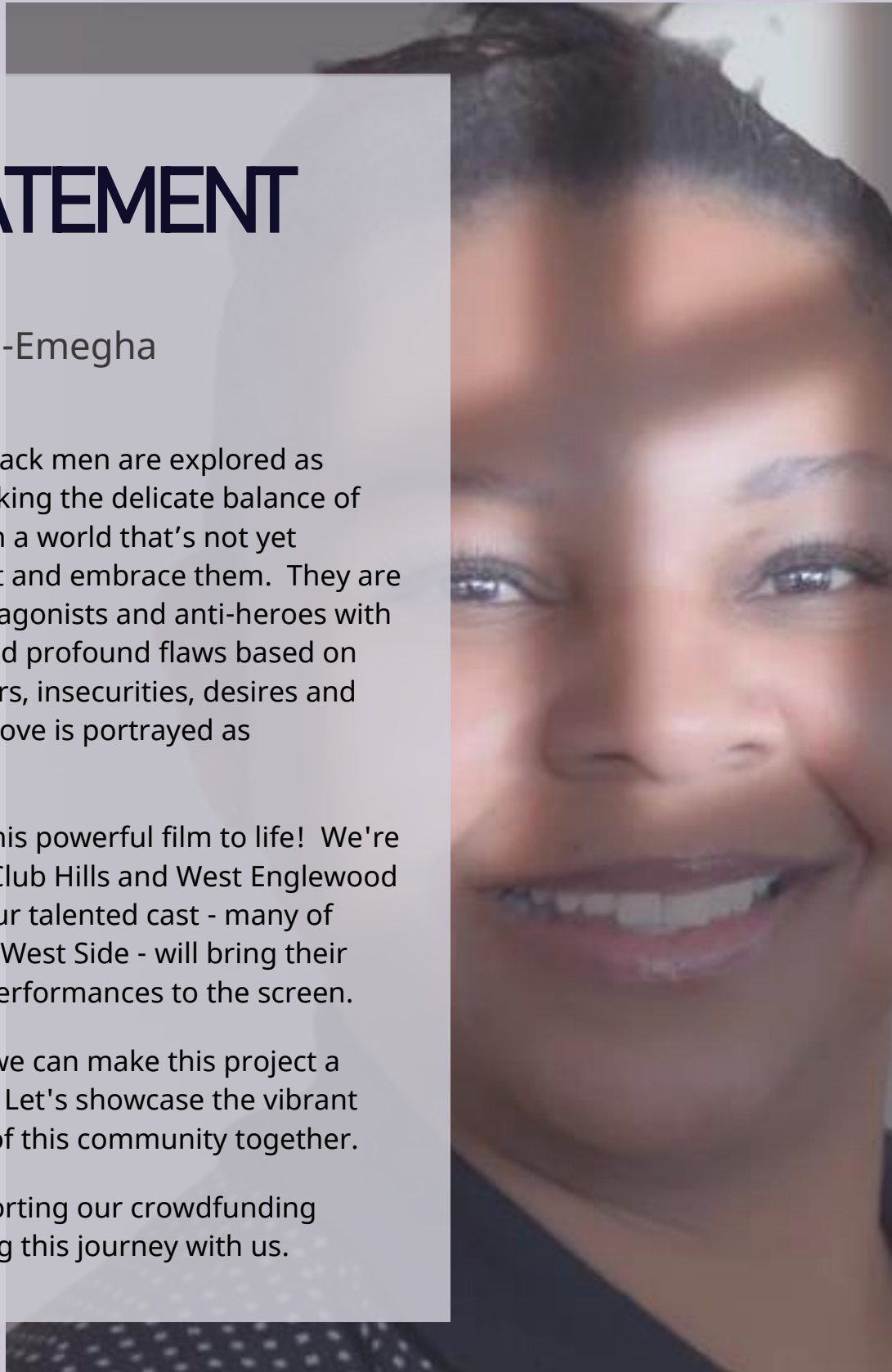
Dionne Roberts-Emegha

In *The Best of Ira*, Black men are explored as nuanced beings walking the delicate balance of rearing black sons in a world that's not yet equipped to support and embrace them. They are simultaneously protagonists and anti-heroes with incredible virtues and profound flaws based on childhood hurts, fears, insecurities, desires and failures -- and their love is portrayed as profoundly.

Join us in bringing this powerful film to life! We're headed to Country Club Hills and West Englewood in Chicago, where our talented cast - many of whom hail from the West Side - will bring their passion and gritty performances to the screen.

With your support, we can make this project a reality on July 29-31. Let's showcase the vibrant culture and stories of this community together.

Thank you for supporting our crowdfunding efforts and for taking this journey with us.



# THE OVERVIEW

*The Best of Ira* is a short film about a young boy named Best and his father, Ira. Through five short acts, Best learns important lessons about life, love, and respect from his father. But tragedy strikes, leaving Best without both parents. Forced to move from his sheltered surroundings in the Chicago suburbs to a dangerous part of Chicago to live with his grandmother, Best begins to turn to a life of crime. However, a visit to his childhood home and memories of his father's teachings leads him to reexamine his actions, proving his father's most important lesson about the strength of the father-son bond.

The Best of Ira is a short film based on the original screenplay, BEST (formerly, the Raising of an OG), that received recognition in 2022 from the Los Angeles International Screenplay Awards (semifinalist), Final Draft's Big Break (quarterfinalist), WeScreenplay's Diverse Voices (quarterfinalist), and the Filmmatic Drama Screenplay Awards (quarterfinalist).

The film is a poignant exploration of the bond between father and son and the harsh realities of life. It is a coming-of-age story that shows how a young boy learns to navigate the world around him with the help of his father's lessons.

The film is shot in a gritty, realistic style that captures the harsh realities of life in the inner city. The performances are raw and emotional, with the actors bringing a sense of authenticity to their roles. The film is a powerful exploration of the human experience and the ways in which we connect with one another in the face of adversity.

The filmmakers are seeking funding to help bring this powerful story to life. The funds will be used to cover the costs of cast, crew, post-production editing, licenses and marketing, including film festivals. The filmmakers are passionate about this project and believe that it has the potential to make a real impact on audiences.

# THE THEME

This thought-provoking film tackles important themes of love, masculinity, social mobility, crime, and the complexities of the father-son relationship.

Ira's lessons to Best are centered around maintaining control and understanding others' weaknesses to gain the upper hand. Ira believes that men need to be in control in relationships to avoid being hurt, or "shot in the heart," as he puts it. However, the film's tragic events show that this approach can have negative consequences and may not lead to true happiness or fulfillment. *The Best of Ira* speaks to fathers who are motivated by a desire to instill qualities such as strength, control, and respect in their sons. The film asks fathers to examine whether this approach is the best way to create emotionally intelligent and self-sufficient young men.

By supporting this project, you can help bring this important story to life and spark meaningful conversations about the pressures and challenges faced by Black fathers in our society.



# SUPPORT THE FILM

Crowdfunding & Incentives



Support the Film

Pledge \$25 or more

**Supporter**

Receive your digital copy of **The Best of Ira** script.

Estimated delivery: October 2023



Pledge \$50 or more

**Fan**

Supporter plus receive a digital brochure of behind the scenes footage.

Estimated delivery: October 2023/March 2024

Pledge \$100 or more

**Fan+**

Fan plus signed memorabilia from screenwriter, cast and/or crew.

Estimated delivery: October 2023

Pledge \$2,500 or more

**Associate Producer** ★

Director's Table plus an Associate Producer Credit in the film.

**Bonus:** You'll also receive tickets to red-carpet screenings and an autographed behind the scenes brochure, signed by cast & crew.

Estimated delivery: May 2024

Pledge \$5,000 or more

**Executive Producer** ★

Director's Table plus an Executive Producer Credit in the film.

**Bonus:** You'll also receive tickets to red-carpet screenings and an autographed behind the scenes brochure, signed by cast & crew.

Estimated delivery: May 2024

Pledge \$250 or more

**The Best Squad**

Fan+ and receive a personalized message from one of the lead characters.

Estimated delivery: October 2023



Pledge \$500 or more

**Ira's Circle**

The Best Squad plus an invitation to a private Zoom call with the screenwriter and actors.

**Bonus:** Signed copy of the script.

Estimated delivery: On or after October 2023

Pledge \$1,000 or more

**Director's Chair**

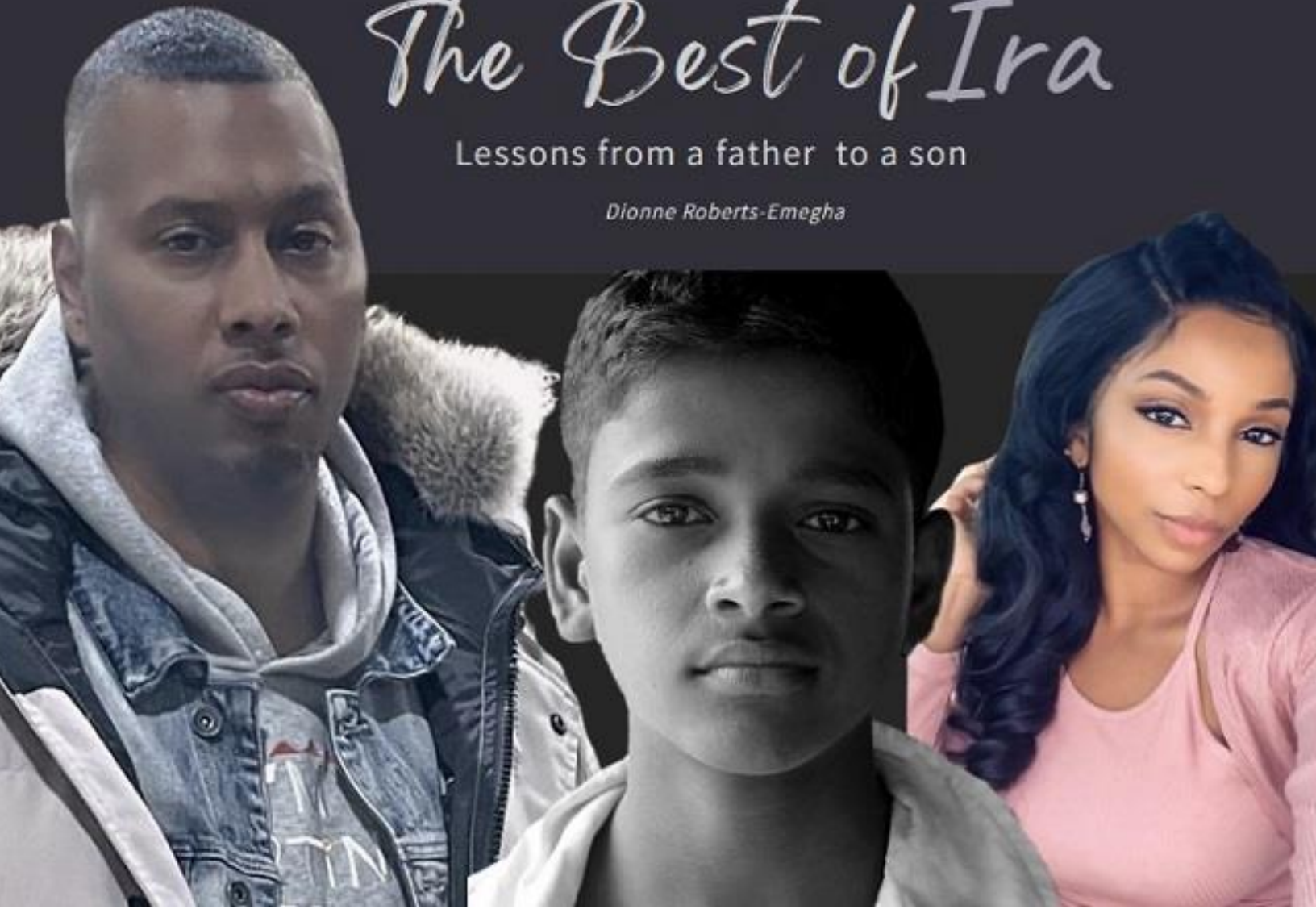
Ira's Circle plus an invitation to a private screening of the film.

Estimated delivery: March 2024

# The Best of Ira

Lessons from a father to a son

*Dionne Roberts-Emegha*



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[www.TheBestofIra.com](http://www.TheBestofIra.com)



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