

# TAX EVASION



FULL SAIL UNIVERSITY MASTER'S OF FILM PRODUCTION PRESENTS: "TAX EVASION"  
A ZACH NALL POWELL FILM

WITH RAY F HUSSAIN, JOHN COOK, ERIK HELSEN, SARAH MALFARA, JAMAL RASHAD, KEN LEMONS, MOHAMMED OSMAN

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY **UJWAL SHASHIDHARA** PRODUCED BY **ANGELO ISNARDI** PRODUCTION DESIGNER **NGAN NGUYEN**

LINE PRODUCER **NORA GLOVER** MUSIC BY **YASUKUNI MASUDA**



The lobby and waiting area



Conrad tries to impress his client, Ethan, a wealthy business man.



The Chef is cooking the books.



Part of our cast and crew on wrap day!



Conrad is arrested by the IRS in an undercover sting.



The cast and crew sign the Giant Pencil

For the entire collection of BTS and publicity stills:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1F\\_fI3Me0BCFWu2U9jhTKnwbqqgq\\_SeXnF](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1F_fI3Me0BCFWu2U9jhTKnwbqqgq_SeXnF)

Logline: In a world where tax evasion is the worst crime possible, a sly tax fraudster must help the IRS catch a notorious book cooker.

Short Synopsis: Conrad Fawkes is a surprisingly nimble tax fraudster who is at the top of his game until he gets caught cooking the books by Ethan Davis, an undercover IRS agent. Conrad will be forced to sell out his book cooking boss, The Chef, in order to avoid a life sentence. But all is not as it seems, The Chef has stopped cooking the books for rich business men and instead turned over a new leaf making tax loopholes for everyday people living paycheck to paycheck. Will Conrad continue his scheme to betray The Chef or will he find one more way to cook the books?

Long Synopsis: A newspaper headline reads "Tax Evader receives life sentence for heinous crime". A mysterious man picks up the paper, reads it briefly, and chucks it into the trash can. Ethan Davis, initially appearing to be a wealthy businessman, sees a long line of people waiting in a tax account's reception area. The receptionist calls up the next person in line. As the person complains about how long the line is, Ethan cuts the line and walks right up to the counter. He woos the receptionist into letting him squeeze in without an appointment. Exasperated, the people in line exclaim their frustrations at the wealthy elite.

Inside Conrad Fawkes' office, the sly tax fraudster crunches the numbers on a calculator and explains his services to Ethan. With a quippy negotiating skill, Ethan tries to squeeze a bit more money out of him. When Conrad refuses, Ethan slides a badge across the desk to reveal that he was actually an undercover IRS agent. As Conrad tries to run for the shredder, the door is busted down by a giant pencil and IRS agents arrest Conrad.

In an interrogation room, Ethan has caught Conrad red handed and tries to get him to give up his book cooking associates. Sensing his leverage, Conrad cuts a deal, full immunity from his crimes if he will give up the world's most notorious book cooker, The Chef. It's not going to be easy though, Conrad becomes the IRS inside mole to Chef's book cooking operation.

The Chef's kitchen is a full scale book cooking operation. His cook begins boiling, mixing, and microwaving tax returns as if his life depends on it. A bodyguard, Jeff, enters to check his cook's work when Conrad and Ethan slide in. Jeff is immediately suspicious of Ethan, but Conrad skirts detection by passing him off as a new line cook. With negotiations underway, Conrad tries to get a meeting with Chef. Jeff is having

none of it, because last time Conrad wasted Chef's time with a low tier client. Conrad assures him however that this is the one Chef has been looking for...it's free real estate. Surprised that Conrad has finally whipped up a quality client, Jeff calls The Chef in. Glad to see Conrad again, Chef welcomes Conrad with open arms. Coaxing Chef with his deal, Conrad wants to talk business but only if Chef will reveal his latest and greatest menu. Almost blowing their cover, Ethan pipes in with what he thinks is the secret passcode. Conrad, quick to silence his not-too-chalant partner, avoids detection and gets Chef to reveal his latest menu. The Chef has discovered the ultimate tax loophole, no one who lives paycheck to paycheck will ever have to pay any income taxes ever again!

Having realized that he just sold out a man who has turned over a new leaf, Conrad tries to warn Chef that this is an undercover sting. Knowing his operation is blown, Chef grabs Conrad as a human meat shield in a mexican standoff against Ethan! Ethan, however, is an incredible shot and kills Chef without harming Ethan. As Chef's lifeless body hits the floor, Ethan arrests Conrad and reneges his deal of immunity, throwing him in prison.

In the jail cell, a fellow prisoner is locked up for murder. Six months, maybe three with good behavior. As Conrad reveals he's a tax evader, the prisoner awkwardly shifts further away and is actively avoiding Conrad. Jeff, disguised as a jail guard, unlocks the cell and hands Conrad his tax folder. Inside is his calculator, and pasted on the back, a picture of The Chef. Conrads lovingly caresses the picture while vows to uphold Chef's new legacy. He pulls the Chef's hat from the folder, puts it on, and assumes his new role as the book cooking criminal overlord turned Robinhood.

Director's vision: This short film is heavily inspired by the works of the late great Leslie Nielsen in Police Squad, Airplane!, and The Naked Gun. These hilarious comedies are so funny because of the amazing word play elements and punny humor as well as the character's complete belief that these wacky events are normal, everyday occurrences.

Full Credit List:

Written, Directed, and Edited by Zach Nall Powell

Produced by Angelo Isnardi

Cinematographer Ujwal Shashidhara

Music Composer Yasukuni Masuda

Associate producers: Tom Racek, Kendall White

Unit production Manager: Nora Glover

1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Director: Sadam Hussain

2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Director: Kalee Griffin  
Second 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Director: Umar Farouk Musa  
Script Supervisor: Tim R. G.  
Camera Operator: Paige Aurora Bergen  
1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Camera: Suludan Diliyaer  
2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Camera: Kanishk Grover  
DIT: David Cockrell  
Production Designer: Ngan Nguyen  
Art Director: Gurukaranbeer Singh Baath  
Set Dresser: Lourdes M Rivadeneyra, Taylor Bonin  
Art Assistants: Zuleika Corona, Dan R White  
BTS Photographer: Nguyen Hai Son  
Gaffer: William Hoover  
Best Boy Electric: Jessie Richey  
Key Grip: Mike Hines  
Best Boy Grip: Mitch Sock  
Dolly Grips: Khann Le Nguyen, Mac Wongdeethai  
Grip and Electric Support: Geoff Barker, Spencer Carter, Antonio Fisher, Eryn McKennedy, Joel Nelson, Dan Phillips, Anthony Primavera, Laura Moral Ramor  
Sound Mixer: Aaron M Canada  
Boom Operator: Emmanuel Robinson  
Sound Editors: Anthony Fernandez, Jeremy Brown, Joel Badillo  
Catering and Crafty Service: Eddie Boy Cestona, Candice Cristina  
Wardrobe, Hair and Makeup: Charlotte Smeulders  
Key PA: Camilo Osorio  
Production Assistants: Jade Ashford, Spencer Beehler, Nico Bisesi, James Dandridge III, Kiana Flemino, Sally Glaser, Rio Hernandez, Mitch Metivier, Jaspreet Kaur Multani, Anthony Sotello Jr, Kenneth Stitt, Raj Taretiya, Sophia Veiga, Wilson Whitehead  
Studio Equipmet Provided By: Chapman/Leonard Studio Equipment, Inc.

Cast:

Ethan Davis: John Cook  
Middle Class Man: Jamal Rashad  
Receptionist: Sarah Malfara  
Conrad Fawkes: Ray F Hussain  
IRS Agent: Parker Fox  
Book Cooker: Gurukaranbeer Singh Baath  
Jeff: Ken Lemons  
The Chef: Erik Helsen  
Prisoner: Mohammed Osman

Extras

Pamela Goode  
Damien Khan  
Cierrow Russel  
Jose Gabriel Izaguirre Prieto

Technical Specs:

Shot on Sony F5

Storage Codec: 4K DNxHD

16:9 Aspect Ratio

Digital, Color

Edited in Avid Media Composer and mixed in Avid ProTools in 5.1 Surround Sound

Colored and Finished in DaVinci Resolve

Total Runtime: 10 minutes and 10 seconds



Contact Ujwal Shashidhara at 321-263-9763,  
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For Immediate release

## **TAX COMEDY SELECTED BY MIAMI INDEPENDENT FILM FEST**

November 14, 2019 | Orlando, FL: Tax Evasion is a pun-filled comedy short where tax evasion is the worst crime, the IRS goes after you with a SWAT team, and cooking the books is an activity you perform in the kitchen. The film will debut in late December at the Miami Independent Film Festival, the leading independent film festival in Miami.

The writer/director, Zach Nall Powell, an up and coming comedy writer, has also written and directed "Florida Man", which played in multiple film festivals in Florida. Zach said "This film is for all the people who are tired of paying taxes".

Producer Angelo Isnardi said, "Tax Evasion was very ambitious. With a group of only four in our cohort, building the rest of the team was challenging but fun. Every taxpayer has to watch this short!". He hopes the audience response will justify producing a feature based on the film.

Tax Evasion cast includes Ray F Hussain as Conrad Fawkes, John Cook as Ethan Davis, and Erik Helsen as The Chef. Key crew includes Cinematographer Ujwal Shashidhara, Music Composer Yasukuni Masuda, and Production Designer Ngan Nguyen.

For more information, visit [taxevasionthemovie.wordpress.com](http://taxevasionthemovie.wordpress.com)

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## Crew Biographies



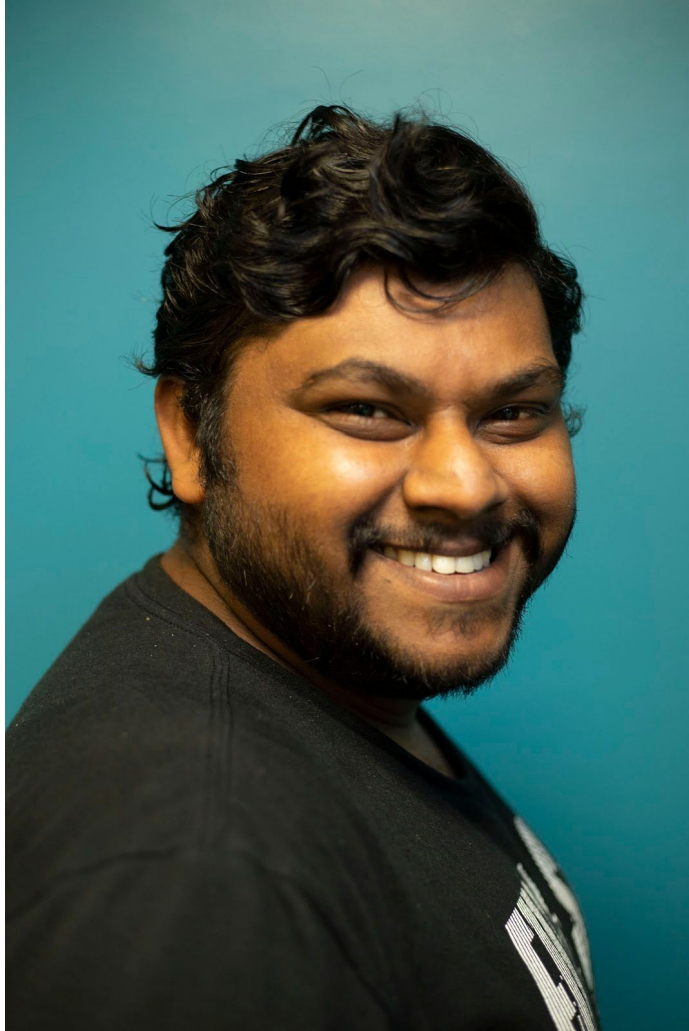
Writer and Director Zach Nall Powell was born in 1992 in Fairfax, Virginia, the greatest day of all time. In 2015, he received his undergraduate degree in Telecommunications from the University of Florida, go Gators, and then began pursuing his Master's in Film at Full Sail in 2018. Since then, he has worked on numerous films as a writer, director, video editor, and much more. Peep his epic portfolio at [zachnallpowell.wordpress.com](http://zachnallpowell.wordpress.com). Fun fact, he is double jointed in his left arm and can rotate it completely backwards.



My name is Angelo Isnardi, I am currently working on my thesis as the Producer. I've spent most of my adult life in the military serving as an NCO in the infantry. After ten years I was combat wounded and spent two years in and out of the hospital recovering from my injuries. I then had to redefine my career path and chose film. I attended Full Sail University for my undergrad and then journeyed throughout America's film industry to work. My current crew went overseas for a project and I decided to go back to Full Sail for my masters.



Hi, I am Sadam Hussain, the 1st Assistant Director. I am from India. I have a huge passion for cinema. My areas of interest are writing, direction, cinematography, photography and editing. I did my bachelors in B.Sc. Visual Communication. I have worked as an assistant script writer in south Indian film industry and a bunch of short films as director and DP. Right now, I am doing my MFA film production at Full Sail. I wish to work for Netflix someday soon.



My name is Ujwal Shashidhara, I am working as a DOP for this film. I've spent my youth life in India as a Civil Engineer and then changed my mind and did my bachelor's in mass communication. I was interested in working on film sets and in this eighth year of my film journey I have 23 short films in my name and I always wanted to be in the Camera team. After working in the professional Industry for a couple of years, I decided to complete my masters in Film, so I am here now. I am excited to work on this project and I know everyone on the team are feeling the same.

## Cast Biographies



Ray F. Hussain plays the role of Conrad Fawkes in our amazing short film. Ray is a local actor in Central Florida who studied with Art Sake Studios focusing on meisner. Ray has been in a variety of Full Sail Films, independent films and commercials over the past 2 years. Ray aspires to continue to entertain everyone so that they can forget about their own issues/problems for that moment and enjoy themselves with his creativity that he brings to his roles. In his spare time Ray enjoys doing hands on activities such as building cars, remodeling homes, and jet skiing. Ray's main goal in life is to try and heal everyone with his bizarre and wild imagination.



John Cook plays the role of Ethan Davis. John was born eons ago in a far off land called Panama. He eventually attended the University of Hawaii, where he studied acting, among other things. He then moved to Florida to attend F.I.T. Unfortunately, the acting bug had bitten him and he continued by becoming involved with many different theaters along with obtaining parts in commercials and films. He also found himself involved in the tourist entertainment venues of Central Florida, such as Titanic, Capone's Dinner Theater and Medieval Times. He took a long hiatus from acting to join the U.S. Navy, get married and finally return to Florida. As of last year, he decided to brush up on his acting skills and has taken part in films and commercials.

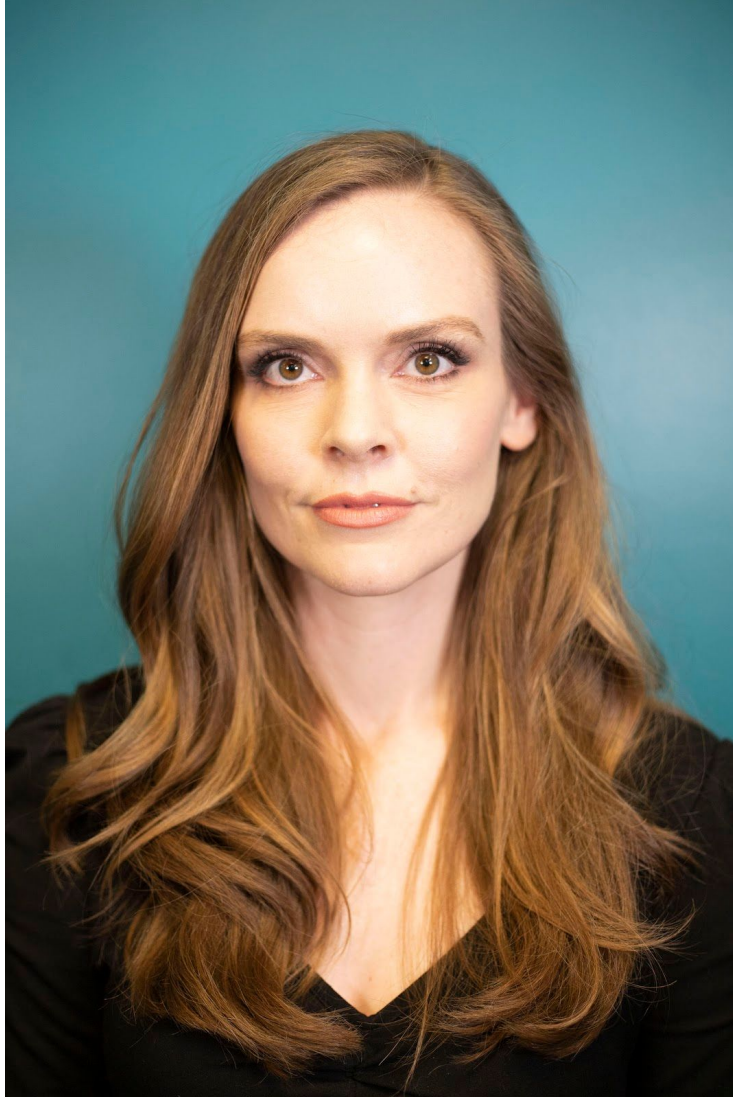


Ken Lemons will play the role “Jeff”, the Chef’s bodyguard and watchdog. Ken was born in Orlando, Florida and has lived there his whole life. He went to the University of Central Florida for Film. Recently, he has returned to acting which has been a lifelong passion.





Erik Helsen will become The Chef, the ultimate book cooker. Erik has been acting for over 20 years. He has studied at a number of Acting schools including American Stage, Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, Classact Studios, and Art Sake Studios. In 2008 he was nominated for a Suncoast Theater Award for Best Supporting Actor. Fun fact, he made a previous appearance in the Zach Nall Powell cinematic universe.



Sarah Malfara is our wonderful tax office receptionist. Sarah started her acting career in her family living room, where she forced her cousins to join her in a bi-weekly reenactment of The Lion King, starring in the role of 'Scar'. She continued on to study Acting in college. Today, she can be found eating foods with loads of cilantro, petting dogs and feverishly trying to get the people in her life to recycle.



MOHAMMED OSMAN

Mohammed Osman, playing The Prisoner, is an Egyptian-American actor, screenwriter, Director, and painter. Mo was born in Alexandria, Egypt, and immigrated to the United States in 2006. His extended family remained in Egypt. Mo is the youngest of three, he has two older siblings, a brother and a sister. Mohammed's passion for art and acting was ignited since a very young age in theater and continued through high school and still on-going. He began his career in his native country as a fashion model and commercial lifestyle actor. After graduating from the University of Fine Art in Alexandria, Egypt, Mo's passion for exploration was reinforced through years of travel. Finally, he decided to move to Miami, Florida in 2006 to pursue a bigger career in general art, acting and film production. Currently he is working as a part time actor, freelancer designer, and art-therapist.

## Production Notes

This production like any other has many stories behind the film. As this story was finally being made, four students set out to accomplish this task with a solid team behind them. The daunting task of building five sets with four people in less than four days can be intimidating. But with the recruitment of an art department experts (Kim) the job was coming together.

Right after set design was complete the crew being led by Kim met with one of the school instructors on set design and construction. A plan was implemented, and walls started going up on the first day. Measurements were made and more and more of the feel for ***Tax Evasion*** was coming together.

Three days later we were about 90% finish when on the last day a teacher unfortunately had a class booked on our soundstage. It was one of the longest waits knowing we were so close yet so far from finishing. As the teacher wrapped up, we all rushed in and started painting the final coats and ensuring all was ready for Monday's shoot.

As the first day of the production started timing issues came up. Equipment needed to be replaced and small movements with the lighting. The first shot was two hours after schedule, but the crew went to work. Grips, electricians, art, props, and camera teams put in extra work to get ahead of schedule and finish a few minutes early the first day.

The rest of the production days ran smoothly, with everyone knowing their roles and staying in their lanes the shot list was complete almost a full day early. When this happened the Producer met with the Director, DP, and 1<sup>st</sup>AD and came up with a new plan to complete as many wish list shots as possible. By the end of the production there was more than enough footage to ensure the Editor had a lot to play with.